The Middlebury Campus

Celebrating 100 Years

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FIRST CATCH

Albert Bitici

Jumping for the disc, a group of Middlebury students plays snow frisbee as a celebration of the long-awaited transition from fall to winter.

Dining to ditch dish recovery

By Myra Palmero
STAFF WRITER

With balsamic vinegar-stained plates and milk-encrusted glasses piling up in the green Dish Recovery System (DRS) bins found all over campus, Dining Services across Commons have begun considering eliminating the bin system altogether.

When Environmental Liaison of the Student Government Association (SGA) Ian Ausprey '04 suggested the DRS last fall, Dining Services and SGA had hoped that the system would lessen the amount of dishes disappearing from the dining halls and going into the trash.

As a student project, the DRS was meant to encourage a buddy system so that students would return the dish-full bins back to the dining halls. When it was first proposed, residential advisors were to be accountable for each of their floors and the responsibility was to be shared by students, with a weekly pick-up to take the bins back to the dining halls.

Instead, the system has become the student body's room service substitute, acting as the students' extension to the dining hall dish room, and allowing them to take more dishes back to their dorm rooms after meals, without returning them to the dining halls guilt-free.

It is a common sight to see overflowing DRS bins in dorms, even in locations where there had not been a designated pick-up point. In an extreme example, Dining Services has been receiving calls from students to pick up bins from their dorms. Dining Services has had to pay other students to retrieve bins because the system has not been working as it was designed in the beginning.

"It makes [the students] feel they have done their part in getting the dishes back. It also has given license to take more. The responsibility factor has been diminished while

SEE DORM PAGE 4

Friends and family in service

By Ben Salkowe
NEWS EDITOR

Last Wednesday, news broke that the Pentagon was expanding its forces in Iraq in anticipation of the security needs for January elections. An additional 12,000 troops will be called up, bringing the level of troops — 150,000 — higher than it was even at the time of the invasion in March 2003. Beyond spurring political debate on campus, the military commitments mean many families, including those of the College community, will be missing loved ones at the holiday dinner this year.

"My brother attended the Naval Academy and became an ensign officer in the Navy serving since June 2004," said Caitlin Brandon '05.5. "I will not get to see him over the holidays." Brandon's brother was recently deployed to the Middle East for six months.

"Although he tries to make what he's doing sound safe, I don't believe it really is. He can't [give] all information because some is top secret, and also he doesn't always know exactly what his ship is doing," said Brandon. "My concerns are that he's going to get hurt or die and I won't have a brother."

Mike Knapp, an associate archivist in library and information services, attended a military college as a student, and has been a member of the Vermont National Guard since he moved to the area 11 years ago. According to Knapp, holidays are one of the hardest parts of service, especially for families. "I think two of my most depressing days were Thanksgiving and Christmas without family," he said.

"I was activated along with about 60 others from my unit [on] Sept. 19, 2003. We went to Afghanistan to serve as embedded trainers/combat advisors for the newly created Afghan National Army," said Knapp. Americans, Knapp said, were assigned to an Afghan Company, and accompanied them in performing voter registration, stability and combat operations. Knapp spent 13 months on active duty, more than nine of them in Afghanistan.

"I was in Afghanistan for Thanksgiving, my birthday, Christmas, my anniversary, Amy's [my wife's] birthday, both my daughters' birthdays and my brother's wedding,"

SEE STUDENTS, PAGE 3

Ari Joseph

Students piled into the Jewish Center Tuesday evening to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah with candles, company, dreidel and latke treats.

Santa meets secularism

Community debates label of "holiday tree"

NEWS ANALYSIS

By Lauren Smith
STAFF WRITER

Snow finally fell on Middlebury last week and with it came the excitement associated with the snowy time of year — eager anticipation not only for the approaching ski season, but also for December break and the traditions many celebrate during that time. Decorations across campus contribute to the holiday atmosphere, but have recently caused controversy, as some are concerned that there is too much Christmas spirit on campus and not enough representation of other traditions.

The annual lighting of the tree in front of Mead Chapel is an event that many look forward to. For more than 20 years it has signaled the beginning of the holiday season. However, the lighting of evergreens is a Christian tradition and Middlebury College claims no religious affiliation. Is it right for the College to celebrate the holidays with such a prominent symbol of the Christian holiday?

Several members of the College community have thought it more politically correct to call the annual lighting the "holiday tree lighting." The debate as to what to call it or whether the College should have the tree at all is not new.

President Ronald D. Liebowitz said the renaming of the tree "was passed down to him from previous administrations." He "had no part in making the announcement [to call it the 'holiday tree']" and would prefer that "we do call it what it is — a lighting of the Christmas tree."

Michael Katz, dean of language schools and schools abroad, agreed with Liebowitz and said for several years he has sent out an all-faculty, all-

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 5

inside this issue...

GOT TOMATOES? | CRISIS CAUSES SHORTAGE | 2

THE PARROT SPEAKS | PET PSYCHIC TELLS ALL | 7

THE FRESHEST RADIO STATION | WMUD 89.3 | 17

MIDDBRIEFS

BY ERI NOSAKA AND KATHERINE DOORLEY

Student performances to headline Concert for Clean Energy

Student concerts to benefit various charities and causes, such as the hurricane relief efforts in Jamaica, the fight against AIDS and Jamnesty, are a common occurrence on campus, providing students with a fun and social way to increase their awareness about global issues.

This Saturday, Nov. 11, the Middlebury Energy Team, a recently created student organization, will be sponsoring a concert, along with Cook Commons, in the Pearson's Lounge from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. as part of the Concert for Clean energy. The band playing is Manifest Nexto Me, from Burlington, Vt. Manifest Nexto Me can be described as a band with an eclectic array of styles and musical leanings, including jazz, hip-hop and reggae influences.

"The point of having this band is to raise awareness and to get out the message what the Middlebury Energy Team is doing. We would like to raise awareness of particularly the threat of Global Warning. It is a problem and college is a great place to start to think about it," said Scott Bulua '07, one of the active members of the energy team as well as the student in charge of organizing the concert.

The Middlebury Energy Team was created in order to foster a dialogue on campus about global warming and other energy issues related to the environment.

Holiday shopping made easy with Alternative Gift Fair

Trying to get a head start on your holiday shopping? Looking for something besides the latest tech gizmo, or "must-have" article of clothing? Then stop by Ross Dining Hall tonight, Dec. 9 between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. and check out the Alternative Gift Fair. Conceived by Andrea Hamre '05, the Alternative Gift Fair will provide members of the College community the opportunity to purchase holiday gifts that can benefit others.

Several non-profit and charitable organizations will be represented at the fair, either through student organizations in the case of UNICEF or on their own in the case of Habitat for Humanity. Among the organizations are Native Energy, the Student Global AIDS Campaign, Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity, Xenia House, Yellow Bikes, Middlebury College Organic Garden, International Students Organization, the Peace and Justice Store and the Middlebury Natural Foods Co-op.

Sample gifts offered by the participants include the option to sponsor the immunization of a child against common childhood illnesses, to buy a box of nails to be used in a Habitat house, to purchase an animal for a rural village with Heifer International and to purchase cards showing support for wind energy and carbon reduction from Native Energy.

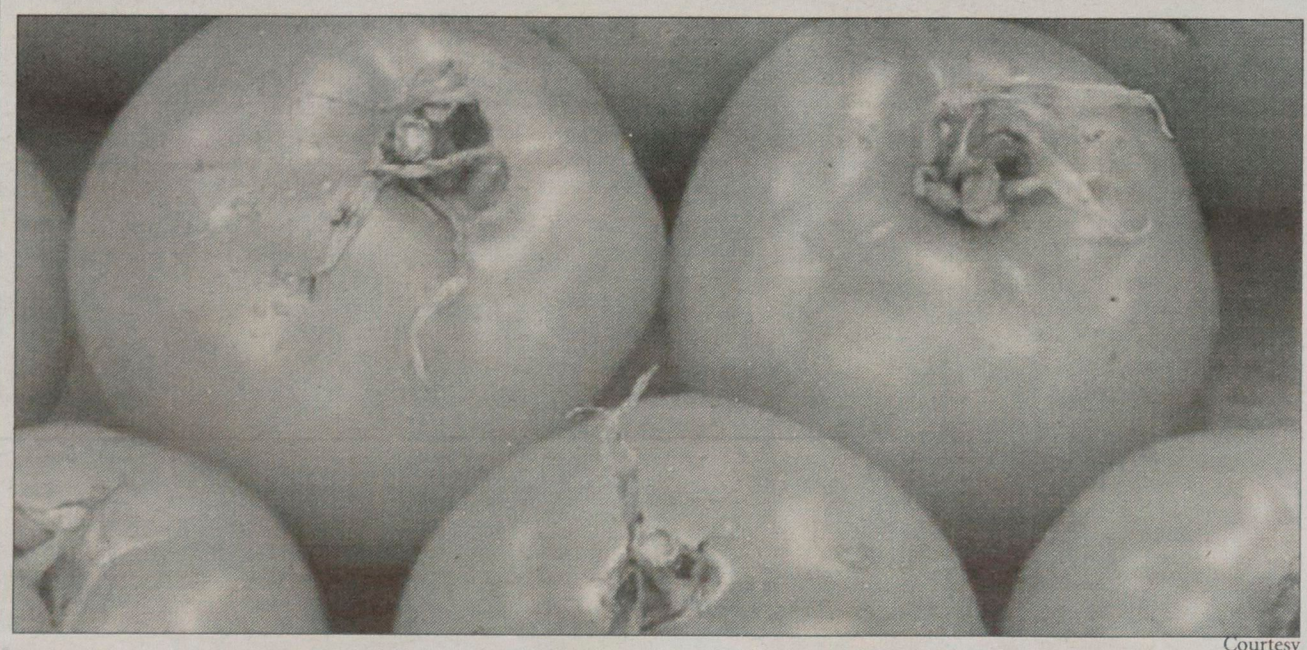
So if your loved ones love helping others, of if you just want to do something different this holiday season, consider the Alternative Gift Fair for your seasonal shopping.

CORRECTIONS

The social house Omega Alpha (Tavern) was mis-identified as "Alpha Omega" in last issue's article, "Social houses' signs signal trouble with administration." *The Campus* regrets this error.

The town meeting scheduled to be held with President Ronald D. Liebowitz on Dec. 6 was re-schedueled in order to avoid a conflict with the celebration of the life of the late Professor Robert Churchill. The town meeting has now been moved to Jan. 6, 2005. Details have not yet been released.

Dining faces unhealthy tomato costs



Courtesy

Tomatoes like these are nowhere to be found in campus dining halls, the tomato crisis has reached dire proportions

By Lauren Smith
Staff Writer

The family of panini machines at Proctor just received a new addition, but the newly rearranged panini bar is missing what some consider an essential ingredient — sliced tomatoes. Due to the slew of hurricanes that hit the Florida coast this past August, the supply of tomatoes has been low and consequent high demand has caused an increase in price. All over the country, including right here in our dining halls, tomatoes — a sandwich staple — are missing from our turkey on rye.

"For those of you wondering where all the tomatoes have gone," read a disclaimer above the sandwich bar in Proctor, "the problem is *money*." According to Charlie Sargent, buyer for dining services, the price for tomatoes has nearly tripled, and it is reported that the price has risen from 12 dollars a box to 50 dollars a box. Middlebury College uses approximately 20 boxes per day. And it's not only tomatoes that have been affected. Peppers and lettuce have also experienced a price increase, though the price subsequently has gone down a bit in recent weeks, causing them to reappear in the dining halls.

The United States' main tomato producers are Florida during winter and spring and California during summer and fall. Florida had six major hurricanes this year. According to the National Weather Service, 2004 was the costliest hurricane season on record, with damages estimated at $42 billion. Tomato crops along the coast were literally wiped out by the storms. The plants that did remain in the ground lost their fragile blossoms, making them virtually useless until the next growing cycle.

The crop in California did no better with heavy rainfall in early October that flooded fields and destroyed a portion of the states' crop.

Sargent, who has worked at the College for nearly 30 years, said he had "never seen it this bad before."

"In addition to the hurricanes, the inflation rate right now is very high," which complicates the problem, he said. Director of Dining Services Matthew Biette agreed, "The prices [for produce] are just astronomical."

The hurricanes in Florida affected not only the tomato crop, but also the profitable grapefruit and orange supply. Why no decline in citrus fruit here at Middlebury? A good portion of the College's citrus fruit comes from Brazil and sometimes California. There are a wide variety of suppliers for citrus so the fact that Florida's crop was hit pretty hard has not been extremely detrimental to the country's supply.

Ashley Clark '07 was quite worried about the tomato crisis. "That's how I get my nutrients — from my sandwich," she said. Indeed, the well-loved "slicing tomatoes" are very high in vitamin C and contain lycopene, a compound thought to prevent cancer.

Elizabeth Ryer '07 said, "Tomatoes should be a priority [in the dining halls] considering it's winter and we're all sick."

Unfortunately, these slicing tomatoes have been affected the most by the storms. The next best thing is cherry tomatoes, which grow much faster than the larger slicing tomatoes and are available, affordable and in the dining hall. However, it is difficult to shove those in the panini machine, not that that stops some from trying.

Deborah Hotte, a dining services employee, claims that students "have been pretty understanding" and while some complain about the lack of tomatoes on their bag lunch sandwiches, many actually like the tomato's temporary replacement — spinach.

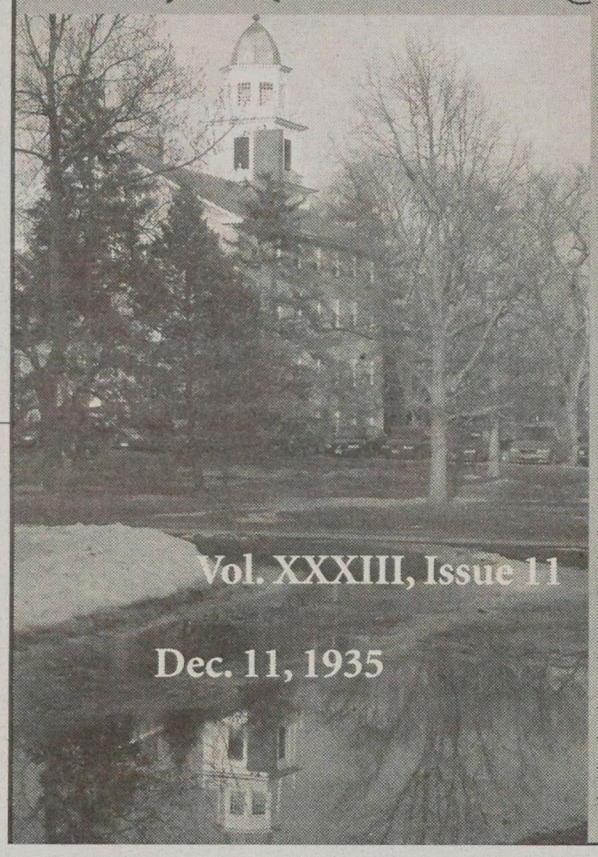
"Though they were reluctant at first," she said, "I told [the students] it was a lot healthier this way and they've come back and said 'Hey, that wasn't too bad!'"

Some students wonder why Dining Services can afford a new panini machine in Proctor, but cannot afford to buy some tomatoes. Ryer said Proctor should have "nixed the new panini machine idea and instead bought some juicy tomatoes." Sophomore Kylie Marks agreed, "Paninis just aren't the same without tomatoes."

"The tomato crisis should be over when students return from December break, or at the very most, the middle of J-term," said Sargent. That is when tomato crops in southwest Florida will have recovered from this summer's hurricanes.

Until then, perhaps students should see this crisis as a vital life lesson. Sarah Fortin '07 urged students to look at it as "a metaphor for all those things you can't get in life [and] realize that in the dining hall, as in real life, sometimes you've just gotta change the ingredients in your sandwich."

This Week in Middlebury History



Government starts building Breadloaf Mountain Ski Trail

Project Intended as Public benefit; three mile run is suitable for amateurs and professionals.

Following an investigation conducted in November by a committee composed of government rangers, members of the college faculty and winter sports enthusiasts, a decision was made to develop one or more ski trails on the newly purchased government land surrounding Breadloaf.

Work on the project is well under way and it is expected that the run may be completed in time for use this season. The present trail runs from three quarters of a mile southeast of Breadloaf in a southerly direction, passing through the Breadload sugar bush. The total distance covered by the run is three miles.

Although designed for public use, it is expected that about ninety percent of its use will be through the college students. It is being constructed with the idea of making it a "middle class" run that both amateurs and experienced skiers may take advantage of.

There exists a possibility of the establishment of a public park or some similar enterprise if sufficient use of the new run merits such action. In addition, there are several spots in the trail which may permit a jump, although landing sites have not been investigated as yet.

*** The above material is adapted from its original 1935 publication.***

Winter wonderland of workshops

Activities develop taste for various hobbies and interests

By Sonja Pedersen-Green
Opinions Editor

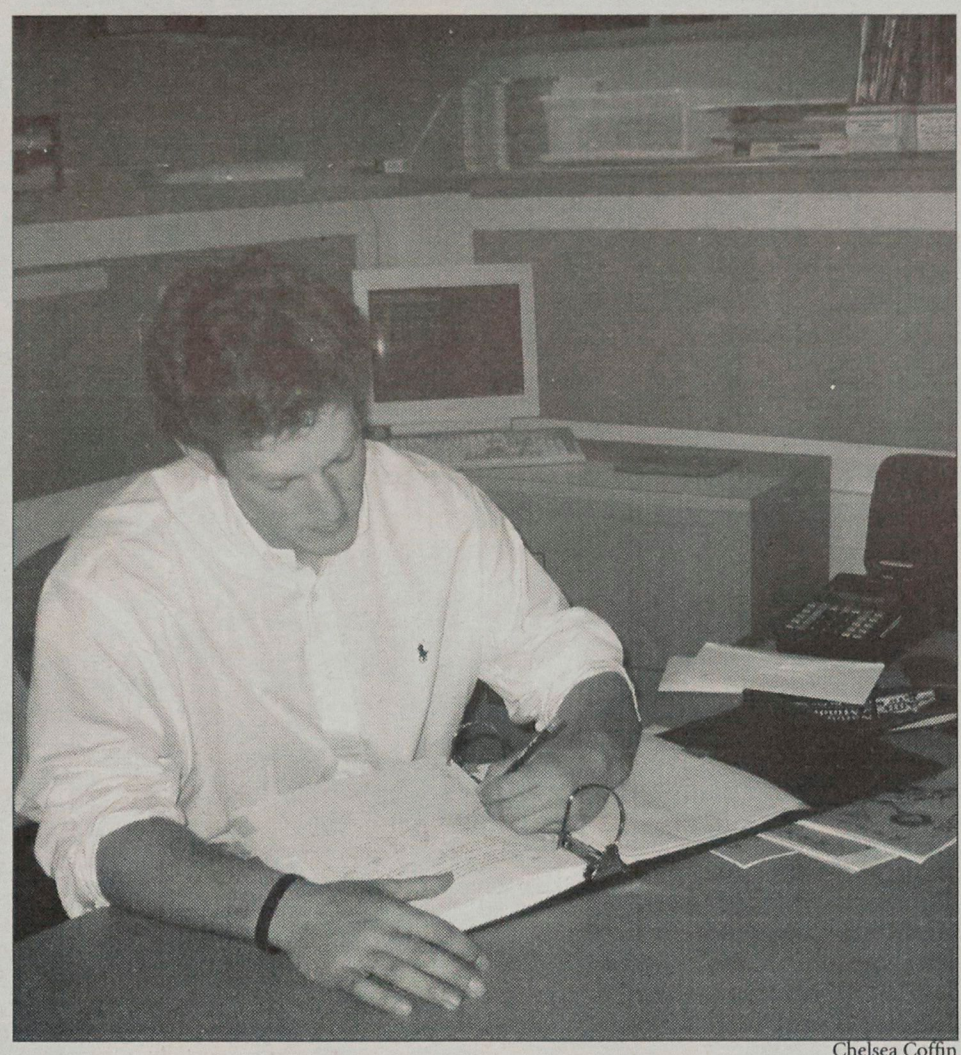
Despite the conspicuous absence of MiddCards to charge their registration fees on, students experienced a fluid registration process for winter workshops this week. Charlotte Chase, assistant director for student organizations and administration who oversees the winter workshop registration process for the Center for Campus Activities and Leadership (CCAL), reported that despite the absence of the MiddCard, the transition to credit cards worked perfectly and without glitches. Although Chase recognized that not having pin bills to pay for workshops creates an inconvenience for students, who must alternatively rely on credit or debit cards to pay for the workshops up front, she noted that the number of participants registered has remained stable. About 90 percent of those registered are students and the other 10 percent is composed of staff, faculty and friends of the College.

The most popular workshops this year included "Make your own Adirondack Chair," "Bike Repair," "Establishing Credit," "Introduction to Wine" and "Tasting and Touring Vermont Homestead Cheeses." Winter term workshops such as the Adirondack and Wine Tasting classes have been around for several years and are slowly becoming Middlebury traditions.

"Generally, students who are unable to get into the workshop the previous year know the game plan for getting into it the following year," said Chase. Often the workshops that fill up the quickest are those with few spots, such as the Adirondack chair workshop, which is led by Gerard Tetrault, a member of Facilities management, who caps his course at six students with a fee of $130 per student.

The fee of the class depends on several factors — more expensive workshops such as cooking are paid for in part by fees from less expensive workshops. All students receive a stipend for leading a workshop. This year, the stipend is up from $100, which it has been for the past five years, to $125. There is a difference between the amount paid to students for leading a workshop and those from the community who make their living off of participating in these activities. Generally, members of the community make more than students. However, staff members who lead workshops can opt to receive no pay, thus lowering the cost of the course. Workshops this year that have no charge associated with them include "The Nitty-Gritty of Grant Writing," "My Car Won't Start Because…" and "Playwriting and Screenwriting," all of which still have openings.

The Winter Term Workshop program has a long history at Middlebury, going back more than twenty years to Dean Erica Wonnacott, namesake of Wonnacott Commons. About 15 years ago, CCAL took ownership of the program. CCAL estimates that there are about 1,000 registrations for workshops, some of which still have openings.



Chelsea Coffin

Patrick Mott '07, an employee at the Center for Campus Activities and Leadership, mans the registration desk for winter workshops.

Students, staff serve overseas

Continued from page 1

said Knapp. "Not whining, but unless you are very lucky or only have a short tour like the Air Force does (six months I think) you tend to miss a lot."

While the College Registrar's office was only aware of one current Middlebury student serving, many students like Brandon have family in the military, and even more have friends and high school classmates in the service. In addition, several members of the College staff, like Knapp, are also in the military.

"I think that a lot of people are personally affected by this war, perhaps many more than we realize," said Gianina Farrugia '05, who has a friend serving in Iraq. "It's easy to brush aside the outside world while at Middlebury, and while people may not be actively suppressing world events, somehow tomorrow's problem set sometimes takes mental precedence over the war in Iraq. In general, I think it's a scary thing to realize that people our age and younger are involved in something so unfamiliar to us in Middlebury."

"Honestly, I try to ignore the fact that [my brother] is in any position of danger, because if I thought about it, it would be too hard," said Brandon. "I can't let that fear invade my relationship with him."

Knapp said that, particularly during the holidays, communication with home is often the greatest thing. "I was very lucky to have extended family, friends and wonderful colleagues here at Middlebury who sent things to me. It is amazing the impact just a card can make, especially if you are having a bad time." He added, "Care packages, whatever they contain, are not a waste of time. I must say that I was always happy to get a package."

In that spirit, one administrator has been doing just that. Joanne Leggett, administration and operations manager in the student affairs office, said she got an e-mail from her sister-in-law about another member of the staff whose son was stationed in Fallujah.

"[Her] son told her that they had been reading the same material again and again and asked his mom to forward 'guy' magazines for the men on his base to share," said Leggett. "So, I shared [the message] with members of the staff here in Forest, and asked for recycled copies of Sports Illustrated, Time, Sports Cars, home improvement magazines, entertainment magazines, Newsweek, etc. that his mom could send to him."

Leggett said some in the student affairs office also sent letters, and she continues to collect magazines for the mother to send over. "It's such a small, but appreciated, contribution," she said. "I have tremendous admiration and respect for the families of the enlisted. They are enduring some very difficult times."

According to Knapp, many troops have limited, if any, access to e-mail or the Internet, and even phone calls are limited in the sense that there are usually lines and making calls can be difficult without a phone card.

"Communication turns into more and more letters and fewer spoken words," said Farrugia. The emotional difficulties of having friends and family overseas and the political tensions of the Iraq war also generate frustration.

Farrugia, whose father and uncle were also in the military, said, "I initially remember being very upset, almost angry at the government and the military for pulling my friend from college and sending him away and, even more so, for taking these men away from their families." She noted that most of the National Guardsmen deployed from Vermont were middle-aged men with families. "I guess to some extent my friend was lucky in that he didn't leave behind a pregnant wife or small children like so many in his platoon did."

"Sometimes it is frustrating, because I myself don't necessarily believe in the reasons of the government, but I have to at least believe for my brothers' sake that something good is to come of his serving because that's what he believes," said Brandon. "It is difficult to hear people sometimes say that nothing good is coming of it, because for his sake, I want and need to believe that he is doing some good."

Brandon said having a brother in the war did not change her viewpoints on it. She noted, however, "I am more careful about making a distinction between the military and the government. I think I realize slightly more about the mentality involved with the military and why somebody needs to believe something."

For Knapp, the education was real. "The most meaningful thing I took away was a better understanding of the real situation on the ground," he said. "By that I mean the ins and outs of the politics. I had the opportunity to speak with my interpreter, my soldiers and civilians all across the country and to see what they thought of the United States, the war on terror, [Afghan] President Karzai, the warlords and the state of Afghanistan."

"It was really eye opening," he said. "It sounds trite, but you do get to see that people are pretty much the same at some level in their needs and wants and dreams. It was fun to immerse myself in a foreign culture, learn the language, eat the food and see the country. It also opened my eyes to just how much money is being spent on this war."

Farrugia said that, above all, her friend's service has taught her a harsh reality.

"It has taught me many things," she said, "none more important then the fact that life is very fragile and we are not invincible. The reality of war isn't a pleasant one, but it exists."

OVERSEAS BRIEFING

BY JASON SIEGEL

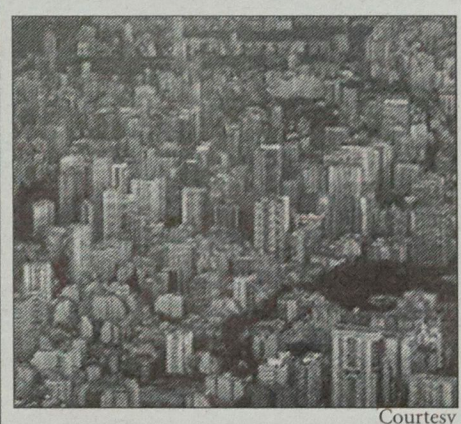
When people think of Chile, they tend to think of that long country in South America that is so thin even supermodels are jealous. But the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference gave the country a chance to show the world what it had to offer — but in this case Chile, not unlike the United States, was a nation whose citizens were divided about the "right" image to broadcast to the global community.

The government and its supporters wanted to show that Chile was a country that was developing like the rest of Latin America, if not better. It wanted to prove that it was capable of building itself up, while recognizing the need to cooperate with other nations. In short, it was trying to prove that it was ready to assume a leadership position in the globalization process.

Opponents of the government were not so keen on this image. They wanted to present an image of Chile that was trying to become modern in ways very distinct from those taken by other countries. The Chilean Social Forum was a three-day event featuring a 50,000-person, peaceful march and days of public conferences emphasizing the need to be socially modern more than economically modern, protecting or securing equality for women, the disabled, the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgendered and Questioning (GLBTQ) community and the natives.

Visiting a Native American community yesterday, I realized just how important this difference is to this last group. The Pinochet dictatorship of the 70's and 80's, emphasizing neoliberalism and trying to undo the socialist changes enacted by Salvador Allende, divided up all the farmland, and made it impossible for the Mapuche (natives) to live off their land and give some to their children to continue the traditional way of life. As a result, many had no choice but to abandon their culture and immerse themselves in the Occident. What's more, the government will not even recognize the Mapuche as a people to protect them from discrimination, yet at the APEC conference, it dressed up world leaders in traditional Mapuche ponchos. In other words, it was presenting a false image of itself to the world.

As a developing nation, Chile still has a lot of problems to work out. Even if it wanted to solve all of its social problems, the money to do so just isn't there. Globalization as it is now, despite the wonderful results it has in eliminating poverty in the world, simply undervalues the need to slow down the pace of economic development to allow for all people to be at the forefront of the new world that we are creating. Yet Chile is a country that is taking this dichotomy seriously. Perhaps it is time for the United States to learn from its fellow American nation, and realize that globalization affects all citizens, not just those who want ride the wave as it is now.



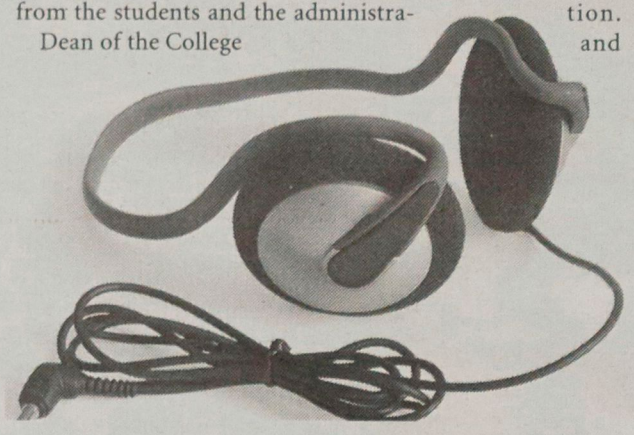
Courtesy

Midd Napster appeals to students and RIAA

Organizers see drop in illegal music download complaints

By Laura K. Budzyna
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association's (SGA) contract with Napster, which went into effect at the beginning of the fall semester, seems to have had nothing but positive reactions from the students and the administration. Dean of the College and



Professor of American Literature and Civilization Tim Spears and Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson have reported a substantial drop in the number of complaints from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) about illegal music downloading on campus.

Leslie Wade '04.5, who co-directed the Napster initiative, commented, "We are excited about the drop in RIAA complaints because that was a primary goal of the Napster Initiative. It's great to see real results like that so quickly."

Since the program began, 1,172 students have registered for Napster accounts. SGA President Andrew Jacobi '05 is pleased with the way students have embraced the initiative. "Students really seem to enjoy the program, which, from the perspective of the Student Government, is even more important to us."

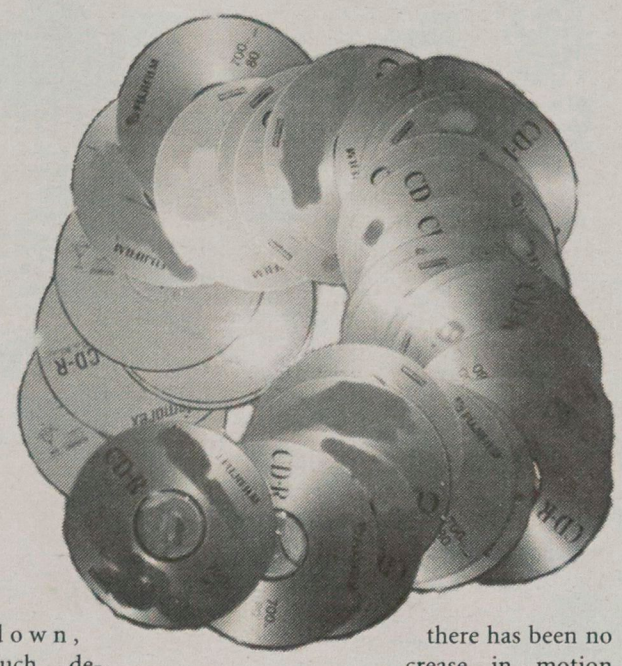
This week, the SGA sent an online survey to students regarding their use and opinion of the program, asking the controversial question, "Would you support a referendum to increase the Student Activities Fee by $25 to make a service like Napster available in the future?"

"We are excited about the drop in RIAA complaints because that was a primary goal of the Napster Initiative.

—Leslie Wade '04.5
Co-director, Napster initiative

The answers to this question may determine the long-term success of the program. "Ultimately," said Associate Dean of Library and Information Services Dave Donahue, "the students will have to decide whether the program is a success and whether they are willing to allocate dollars to support the program in the future."

While the frequency of illegal music sharing has gone



down, such de- there has been no crease in motion picture pirating. In response, the SGA has begun researching alternative programs that also include movie downloads.

According to Wade, this week's survey will allow the SGA to evaluate the amount of interest in movie downloading services and which movie programs "are the most cost-effective and will give students what they want and will really use."

Dorm fines to replace dish recovery bins

Continued from page 1

the perception of enabling becomes more apparent," said Head of Dining Services Matthew Biette.

Ironically, regardless of the DRS, Dining Services Analyst John Nordmeyer's Halloween Proctor Costume "Ghost of the Proctor Dishes" and the stacks of empty racks in the dining halls to suggest how much has gone missing, neither the amount of dishes leaving the dining halls nor the number of dishes Recycling has found in the trash has lessened.

Last Friday, Dining Services co-hosted a meeting with the SGA, Community Council, Commons CRAs, Dining, Environmental Council, Dining Committee and others, in order to come up with a solution for the ever-present dish loss problem. The final decision was made to abolish the DRS and instead institute a fining system. They will be working through the end of the semester to begin an education campaign for dorms during Winter Term.

The campaign hopes to teach people responsibility and how the fining system will work before implementing it. While right now there is an unenforced fine on individuals, the new system will fine entire dorms for any dishes found in common rooms. If specific students admit they are responsible for leaving the dishes behind, they will bear the brunt of the fine and others will be let off.

All DRS bins will be removed from campus with signs explaining the new rules. If the dorm has dishes in the trash, the fines will be increased.

Biette said, "Taking dishes from the dining room is nothing new. It has been happening since way before you were born. The degree that they are being taken and not returned is the scary part. Evolutionarily speaking, I know the dishes sprout legs to get to the dorms; do the legs get eaten off when they get there?"

Chelsea Coffin
Dish collection bins like these are headed for extinction.

A river runs through it

With the recent snowfalls and evening freezes, most of the local waterways now have felt the effects of winter and are beginning to be covered with layers of ice. A Middleury river rushes down jagged rock edges during one of Middlebury's last days of fall.

Andrew Cogbill

"Holiday tree" heckled by some

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

staff e-mail protesting the name of the "holiday tree." Katz has been called a "grinch" for doing so, but remains adamant in his belief. Although he does not celebrate Christmas, Katz said he is opposed to the naming of the tree because it is "hypocrisy." He claimed in his e-mail, "As far as I know, no Jews, Muslims or secular humanists cut down and/or decorate evergreen trees in mid-December."

Wreaths, another Christmas symbol, hang throughout the Center for the Arts and McCardell Bicentennial Hall. A Christmas tree stands in Proctor Dining Hall. Daphne Lasky '07 said that while she celebrates Hanukkah, she does not feel personally offended by these decorations around campus.

"I think that the decorations are obviously Christian — calling the tree on McCullough lawn a 'holiday tree' doesn't fool anyone," Lasky said. However, since "the administration is rightly trying to make homogeneous Middlebury more diverse, having only Christian decorations on display probably doesn't help the matter," she continued.

Rabbi Ira Schiffer, associate chaplain, said he does not see a problem with the College-sponsored Christmas decorations on campus, and commented that the "campus community embraces celebrations by diverse religious groups on campus."

Others have argued that the decorations are part of a larger cultural tradition associated with this time of year, but Katz remains unconvinced. "[Though Christmas is very much] a cultural thing, there are still people who don't celebrate it," said Katz. To assume that everyone does is offensive, he believes. "And consequently, to call the tree a holiday tree, when it is obviously a Christmas tree, offends those who do not celebrate [a holiday at all]."

Middlebury's own "holiday tree" is part of a much larger national issue, one that received even more attention last weekend when, in a Denver holiday parade, where religious floats were banned.

The debate will be continued this spring when the College community will hold discussions to revisit the reasoning behind using the term "holiday tree."

"[Those] who wish to simply call the tree a holiday tree are trying to avoid conflict," said Rachel Rosenfeld, '07. "However, Middlebury is a non-threatening intellectual environment in which disputes and debates about issues such as religion should be encouraged for improved perspectives on life."

By Daniel Houghton

do you have a story idea?

e-mail campus@middlebury.edu

public safety log

NOVEMBER 23, 2004 TO DECEMBER 6, 2004

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
11/30/04	1:40 p.m.	Vandalism	Exit Sign	Fletcher	Referred to Commons Dean
11/23/04	2:00 a.m.	Theft	Bike	Atwater	No Suspects
11/30/04	12:30 p.m.	Theft	Cash	Athletics Complex	Open
10/18/04	Unknown	Theft	Furniture and Lighting	LaForce	Open
12/2/04	7:30 p.m.	Theft	Watch	Hadley	No Suspects
11/30/04	Unknown	Theft	Cash	McCullough Student Ctr.	Open
11/29/04	Unknown	Theft	Cash	Memorial Field House	No Suspects
12/4/04	11:00 p.m.	Unlawful Mischief	Speed Sign	248 College Street	Referred to Commons Dean
12/5/04	12:06 a.m.	Theft	Gas Cap	Service Building	No Suspects
12/4/04	11:40 p.m.	Theft	Amplifier	McCullough Student Ctr.	Open
12/6/04	2:20 a.m.	Vandalism	Vending Machine	Ross	No Suspects

ALCOHOL INCIDENTS: This week, there were six occurences of alcohol possession by a minor — in Battell, Longwell, Palmer and Pearsons.

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY ANDREA GISSING AND MEGAN O'KEEFE

Foul play with fowl

For three weekends now, in efforts to have a delicacy removed from a restaurant's menu, a group of students from Penn State University have been protesting outside of a local restaurant. The students, members of Penn State's Alliance for Animal Rights (ARR), are calling for a boycott of Zola's because the restaurant refuses to take *foie gras* — a French delicacy consisting of goose or duck liver — off its menu.

Protesters have picketed the restaurant from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. both Friday and Saturday nights, handing out leaflets to passers-by and holding signs. A local resident who will be attending Penn State next semester also dressed up as a duck for the cause.

Foie gras is made by inserting a metal pipe down the birds' throat three times a day in order to force feed them. The students object to the conditions in which the fowl are raised.

Paul Kendessy, the owner and chef of Zola's, said he was aware of the protests, however he declined to comment on whether the delicacy would be taken off the menu.

The group was inspired by a student organization at the University of Pittsburgh, Voices for Animals, which had a similar campaign, managing to get eight restaurants to remove *foie gras* from their menus.

Observers have been intrigued by the protest — however, the common response is that there are more important things to protest for than fowl.

Representatives of the group said that the ARR would continue protesting outside of Zola's until something is done, saying that if the issue is not considered important, they will make it an important.

— U-Wire

Students seek "right" path

Many college students say they feel increased pressure to select the "right" major as factors like rising tuition costs and uncertain economy weigh down on their educational decisions. The annual cost of a four-year public college averages $11,354, a 7.8 increase from 2003-4. Four-years at a private college average $27,516, a 5.6 percent increase over last year. In this high-cost environment, many career counselors say students are seeking the highest return on their "investment."

In one study three economists from Northeastern University in Boston, Mass. recently attempted to quantify how much students with a variety of majors can expect to earn in their careers. They concluded that a student's major is more crucial to future financial success than the college attended. They recommend that liberal arts majors also take business-related courses and use internship experience in order to remain competitive when entering the job market.

Others have criticized the dollars-only focus of the Northeastern study. Peter Vogt, a career counselor in Minneapolis and the moderator on the Career Planning for College Students message board at Monster.com, encourages students to sell themselves on their writing, research and communication skills even when their major does not match up with employer expectations. While he admits graduates today face more pressures than in past years, he says students should look at a liberal arts education as a chance to prepare for many options.

Still the tally from the Northeastern study may leave students with certain majors dismayed. In 2002, workers with degrees in chemical engineering and accounting earned an average of $75,579 and $63,486, respectively, while philosophy majors made an average of $42,865 and elementary education graduates $38,746.

— *The New York Times*

localnews 100

6
CHEERS!
VERMONTERS CAN NOW ENJOY REAL ORGANIC BEER

7
I SEE DEAD PEOPLE
PSYCHIC REACHES OUT TO NEW ENGLAND RESIDENTS

Otter Creek serves a winning brew

New silo allows for organic beer production

By Polly Johnson
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

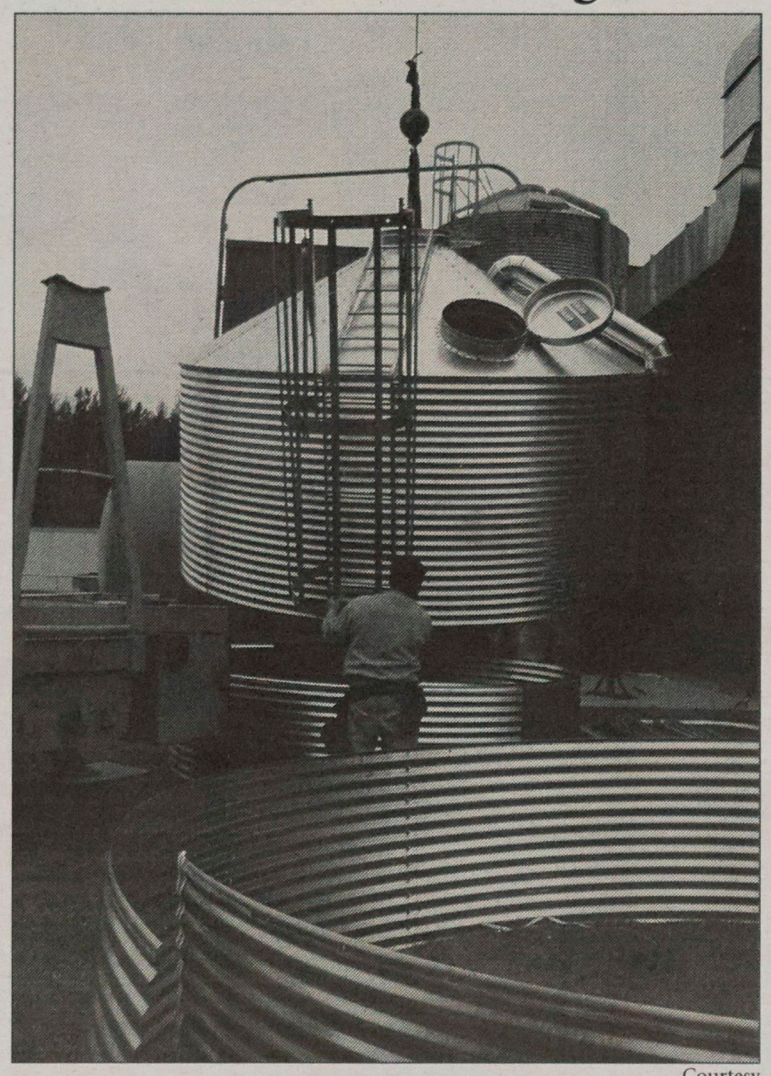
In a state where people love organic products possibly as much as they love beer, it is only natural that these two passions should join hands. And now, thanks to Otter Creek Brewery and Wolaver's, which is brewed by Otter Creek Brewery, beer drinkers have reason to celebrate. The Otter Creek Brewery has recently purchased a new grain silo specifically for the production of organic malts. Organic grains previously had to be delivered to the brewery and stored in "super-sacks," or large bags that had to be fork lifted and added to the brew. Now, with the addition of a new silo, super-sacks can be eliminated. Morgan Wolaver, owner of Otter Creek Brewery, is extremely optimistic about what the new silo will do for the brewery's organic recipes.

"It is exciting to see more people supporting sustainable agriculture, and carrying it through to their choice of beer," Wolaver said.

Kate Corrigan, marketing assistant for Otter Creek Brewing, Inc, is excited about the prospect of organic brewing. "Organic grains and hops make great tasting craft brewed beers, but like conventional craft beers, the secret of the great taste lies in the brewing," she noted.

In Vermont, even more so than many other states, local farming and the state's ability to take advantage of local and organic products is not a new phenomenon. Businesses around Vermont make a concerted effort to use products from surrounding farms to help sustain local economies. And now with the use of organically grown products in beer, many farms will see an increase in business. For example, many of the Wolaver's beers include wheat from Gleason Grains in Bridport, Vt.

Organic farming has grown 271 percent in Vermont over the last 10 years. Wolaver noted "Throughout the country, more people are becoming educated on the issues facing farmers and the environment. Buying organic is one way that people can make a difference."



Courtesy

A new brewing silo at Otter Creek Brewery, Inc. provides a more efficient way to produce organic beer, an increasingly popular phenomenon.

The success of the Middlebury Natural Food Co-op, which is often packed with people and sells only natural, organic foods, illustrates how increasing numbers of people want to switch to a more organic lifestyle.

Said Corrigan, "People are becoming increasingly aware of the benefits of organic foods and beverages, and there is an enormous group of people who, while not committed to a total organic diet, are adding organic items to their list as more and more items become available at reasonable prices."

The new brews are crafted in the same way as the non-organic Otter Creek brews, with the exception of how the malts and hops are grown. An organically grown food cannot be genetically engineered and cannot include any synthetic chemicals or sewage sludge, in its production.

So far, the public response has been overwhelmingly positive. "Most consumers choose Wolaver's organic beers because they are organic and fit with lifestyle decisions they have made. They want to support the type of agriculture that they believe makes the most sense for the world," Corrigan said.

The price of brewing the organic beer can be a prohibitive factor, but some say the benefits of producing organic beer greatly outweigh the minor costs. Organic grains and hops are more expensive by about 10 to 25 percent than regular beer. Corrigan stated that the consumer "will see about a $0.50 to $1.00 difference in six-pack pricing." However, "The organic part of our business is not so much about profits, but about supporting and promoting sustainable agriculture," she added. Corrigan also noted that Otter Creek Brewery, Inc. will donate to other groups who are working to promote sustainable agriculture.

All over the country, the popularity of organic farming and production is increasing. People are discivering the benefits of organic foods as a part of a healthy lifestyle, and Corrigan has high hopes for the future of organic beer production. She believes that in major metropolitan areas "more companies will add organic lines to their current styles [since] specifically in major metropolitan areas, the growth of organic stores and restaurants is staggering."

Corrigan believes that as Otter Creek Brewery, Inc. and Wolaver's continue to popularize the phenomenon of organic beer, more people will learn about its positive benefits and show interest.

"This is not a fad or a trend," said Corrigan, "but rather a strong, growing movement that is expanding into all markets, geographies and age groups."

Health care scam

Feds. investigate violations

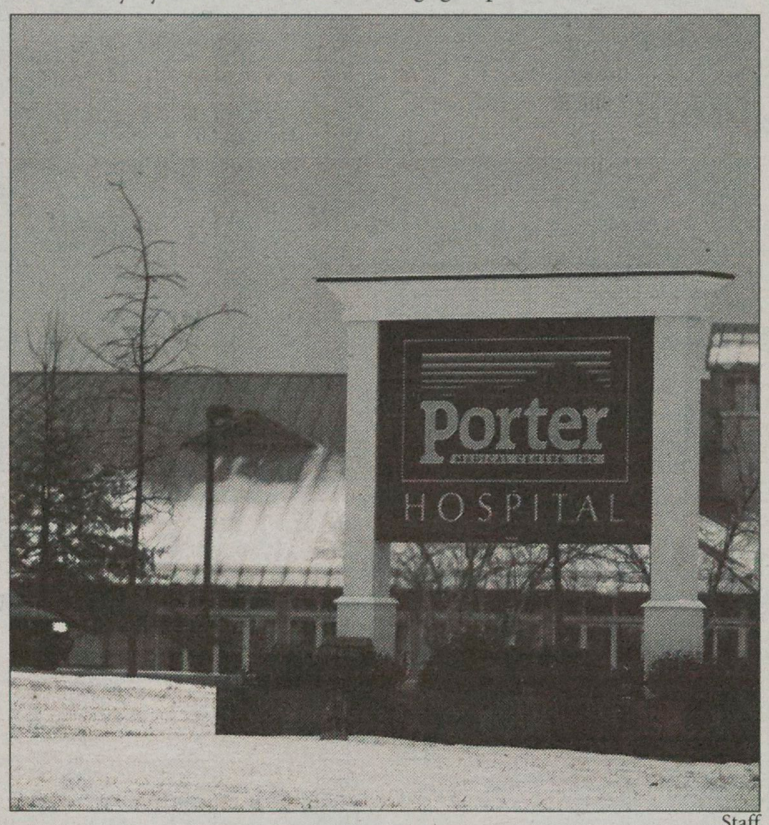
By Katherine Doorley
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

The loose network that exists between 12 Vermont home health care providers is being investigated by lawyers from the United States Department of Justice for anti-trust violations, lawyers for the health care agencies announced last week.

The Vermont agencies have been successful over the past two decades both in monetary terms and in terms of the number of Vermont residents served by the agencies' nurses and nurses' aides. During the 2002 fiscal year, the agencies accumulated close to $80 million and their 1,500 permanent employees made over 880,000 home visits to provide close to 21,000 seriously ill or dying Vermont residents with health care.

The home health care services have been lauded by national policy organizations concentrating on health care in all 50 states. The National Association for Home Care and Hospice, an advocacy group based in the nation's capital, reported that the Vermont agencies provided quality home care at rates cheaper than those in any other state in the country, and in addition, the Vermont agencies provided access to care for more senior citizens and low-income individuals than agencies in other states. The agencies have also offered a series of services to other Vermonters, including flu shot clinics.

However, as successful as the Vermont programs have been, concerns have been raised about restrictions they hve created to keep new corporations from entering the market that may qualify the home care network as an illegal monopoly. The Vermont home care agencies have managed to control access to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements to some extent. For example, the Professional Nurses Services Inc. agency of Winooski has been attempting to become eligible to receive reimbursements for Medicare and Medicaid since 1980. With their 240 employees, this is one of the largest home care providers in the state, yet they have thus far been unable to be approved for Medicare and Medicaid. What complicates the situation even further is the fact that of the Vermonters who need home care for their health needs, 80 percent are on Medicare or Medicaid.



Staff

Inquiries into the Vermont home care system may increase patients at Porter Hospital, as home care becomes less available.

In effect, restricting access to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements is restricting access to the majority of the market for home care services. It is this point that has raised federal concerns about anti-trust violations on the part of the health care agencies, although it is the state of Vermont's system regulations that have kept other agencies from gaining permission to receive Medicare and Medicaid funding.

The Department of Justice has not listed this investigation amongst its many pending actions, nor has any official been able to be reached for comment by any of the major Vermont newspapers.

"Hostess of the Paranormal" seeks local info

By Katherine Doorley
LOCAL NEWS EDITOR

New England has long been associated in popular culture with paranormal activity. How many Steven King movies or Hollywood horror films seem to take place in the stereotypical small New England town? One psychic is especially interested in paranormal activity in New England and has taken strides towards discovering more about the supernatural activities of the area.

Scorpiona, a psychic based in the Detroit, Mich. area, recently appeared on a local radio program known as the Jae-Files. Jae is a radio DJ interested in X-files-type — paranormal activity and the like.

Among the many observations made by Scorpiona is her belief that "the dimensions are moving closer together." She added, "Rather than haunting [increasing], I think we are becoming more inter-dimensional friendly."

Scorpiona further described her beliefs about the links between the physical world, which we inhabit, and the many realms of the spirit world, stating, "If we are on the edge of the dimension for just one second, it's [a lot] like the blades of a fan, where if it is spinning fast enough you can sometimes see through it." According to Scorpiona, it is these times when one is able to see through to the spirit world that paranormal activity most often takes place.

While many people might limit their idea of the paranormal to simply ghosts, Scorpiona stated that there are in fact a plethora of kinds of supernatural sightings. Her Web site is full of stories of spinning orbs and ectoplasm, the essence of spirits.

However, despite the fact that the dimensions may be moving closer together, Scorpiona cautions against the idea that anyone, even a psychic, can make spirits appear. "With the true spirit world, you can't make anything happen," Scorpiona said. "You can invite [something] to happen, but the spirits have a mind of their own." She noted that sometimes those people who want most to see an apparition are the least likely to see them. "Prayer-conscious people can pray to see something and not see something. [Paranormal activity] is not anything for sale," she added. "You can't buy it. You can follow the guides to invite a ghost, but [the ghost] won't necessarily choose to show itself." Finally, it can often be difficult to pin down the spirit world. "The spirit world can materialize and dematerialize," argued Scorpiona, "like UFOs that are on a pilot's radar screen and then vanish, all the spirits must do is to change vibrations."

Scorpiona has not always been a psychic. In fact she said, "I had been a bit of a skeptic because other people could see things and I could not." However, she soon realized that she had psychic abilities and that "when paranormal activity starts to happen, it changes your life." Since that time, she has done thousands of readings, created a Web site to help people who witness paranormal activity, and has even participated in several police investigations.

In an attempt to improve connections with the spirit world, Scorpiona has made it a point to reach out to younger people. "More and more people from the younger generation are beginning to accept [the supernatural] as not necessarily negative," stated Scorpiona. "Younger people will be more open or will believe more, maybe in 100 years we will be able to tune into the spirit world the same way that you can tune into a radio."

In a further effort to make the world of the supernatural more accessible to the average person, Scorpiona has recently released an updated version of the ancient tarot card deck. In explaining the differences between her deck and more traditional versions, Scorpiona noted, "Tarot is ancient and most people don't understand [the cards]." In addition she pointed out, "The cards aren't specific enough." In order to deal with these problems Scorpiona created an animal-centered deck of cards. She explained, "All questions fall into categories. I came up with a deck that was not negative and had a pattern people could remember easily." For example, a parrot represents talking, a dog friendship and a lightening bolt something unexpected. Taken together, these three cards could mean that you should expect a surprise call from a friend.

Scorpiona firmly believes that anyone can use her tarot cards because "when people do card readings, even when they think they don't know [the answer], they do on some subconscious level. You simply need to relax and concentrate."

Another interesting feature of the deck, which she noted, is that she is giving $1 off the top of every deck of cards sold to various anti-cruelty to animals organizations around the country. Her marketing scheme for the cards is linked to her efforts to encourage people, especially young people, to write to her with reports of paranormal activities. Two of the groups she is targeting with the tarot cards are young people who are willing to act as entertainers at parties using the decks, and young women in sororities who are interested in doing the same.

Scorpiona predicts that in time we will be able to pass from our world into the spirit world with much greater ease than we are able to now. However, in order to do so, she argued that we need more information and more contact with the spirit world. Hence, Scorpiona will continue to speak on radio shows, and update her Web site in the hopes that people across the country, but especially younger people, will inform her of paranormal activities taking place nearby.

Courtesy
Scorpiona (with parrot) encourages New Englanders to report paranormal acitivies to which they are witnesses.

Courtesy
With a new tarot card deck, Scorpiona hopes to both help animals and make it easier for people to understand the ancient psychic system.

VERMONT by the numbers

1.3: Number of years (in billions) since the Adirondack mountain range was formed.

1918: Year that women were first allowed to vote in Vermont town elections.

49: Vermont's rank of most populous U.S. states.

Sources: shgresources.com

Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

Santa got run over by a reindeer, picking out a Christmas tree one night, you can say there is no such thing as fierce reindeer, but as for me a Santa we believe…

Yes, Middlebury, there is a Santa Claus. Trust me on this one. You see, every Christmas Eve, my father *becomes* Santa Claus. He dons the red suit and travels to a string of houses to hear last minute gift requests from neighborhood children. As an elf in training, I have often been called upon to drive the sleigh. Sorry, no reindeer, just the family sedan. Santa rolls out of the car door, and shuffles down the sidewalk, bellowing the infamous "Ho Ho Ho" and jingling sleigh bells all the way.

But once, one of the reindeer (Blitzen, I presume) got a little jealous of Santa's modern mode of transportation and turned on the jolly, old man.

'Twas the weekend after Thanksgiving, a few years back, and my family was tromping along the outskirts of one of our farm fields in search of the perfect Christmas tree. Axe in hand, my father, Kris Kringle in woodsman clothing, led the anxious pack. Our search came to a sudden halt when what to my mother's eyes did appear, but a lonely figure of a tall, brown deer. Now, wild deer are no oddity around the farm, but this one was different — it had a red cloth collar around its neck and seemed rather friendly. Mrs. Claus, with worry in her voice, said to my father, "Oh goodness, someone has lost his pet deer." Translation: You should go catch the poor, seemingly tame creature that can't find his way home. And so, Father Christmas put down his axe and slowly approached the deer. But it was apparently that time of the year when little Blitzen was looking for love, so the presence of any male sent him into a fury. The irate deer tackled my father to the ground, pawing each little hoof on his chest and bowlful of jelly. As Mom ran to the woods "to find a stick" to scare away the beast, Santa pulled a half-nelson and Blitzen was down for the count. Alas, the infuriated deer, as my family did fear, quickly jumped back to his feet. Away from the field, we flew like a flash, tore open our front door and felt safe at last.

But, lo, the tale does not end here. We warned the neighbors (and the game warden) of the fawn gone wrong. On the porch the next day, there arose such a clatter. Mom sprang from her work to see what was the matter. No, Blitzen had not returned for revenge, rather it was the Channel 6 newscaster. You know you live in a small town when the lead in to the evening news is your family picture with the voiceover — "Family attacked by deer while looking for Christmas tree."

If you are reading this story with disbelief, trust that I have not been drinking too much eggnog. The tale is true. So I leave you with a wish for Happy Holidays and a warning on Christmas Eve remember to steer clear of Blitzen.

opinions

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Editorial

Fall 2004 College Evaluations

As the end of fall term draws near, students in classrooms across the College are being presented with the now-familiar course evaluation. Here students are given the opportunity to evaluate the course, the professor and make suggestions for the future. In that spirit, as our own term draws to a close, here is our College evaluation — comments on the past semester and suggestions for the future.

Construction — Though the prospect of new and newly renovated buildings excited us, the reality of living in a construction zone quickly brought us back down to earth. We know that the number of construction workers available to work on projects has slowed the speed of completion in most cases (most notably the Atwater Dining Hall), but the number of roped off areas on campus and the fact the laundry room in Atwater Hall A wasn't finished until last week have left us feeling like more has been bitten off than can be chewed. Suggestion for the future: one project at a time.

Dishes — It is the problem that can never be solved. Though much time and effort has gone into investigating the reason for the continued disappearance of dishes, glasses and silverware from the dining halls, nothing has changed. Dishes are still ending up lost in the Bermuda Triangle that is Battell Beach, or found piled up in trashcans and Dish Recovery Bins. It's frustrating for students who can't find bowls for their cereal, but even more frustrating for administrators who see thousands of dollars vanish. We applaud the hard line that Dining Services and the administration is taking by adding a fine for the crime — maybe now money will be made back. Suggestion for students: return dishes! We definitely don't want to be charged.

Finals — One aspect of the end of the term that confuses us the most: Why do some professors feel the need to give a test or assign a large paper during the last week of classes and then give a final exam? Likely as not, the final exam will be comprehensive, so why give a smaller subject test right before finals? Why not just devote a larger portion of the final to the as-of-yet untested material? Suggestion for professors: Remember, make your grading job as painless as possible.

SGA — A new Student Government Association that has shown creativity in their ideas and an ability to get results is to be applauded. Thank you for the buses home! Suggestion: Pass a bill that tops that one and blow us all away.

Vandalism — Winter is upon us and the last thing anyone wants to deal with as we dash into dorms from the freezing cold is having to navigate past weekend messes. Respect fellow members of the College community by respecting community space. Do what you want to in your own room, just make sure it does not spill over into the hallway. Suggestion: Deposit trash in the big bins — overflowing containers smell!

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's website at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

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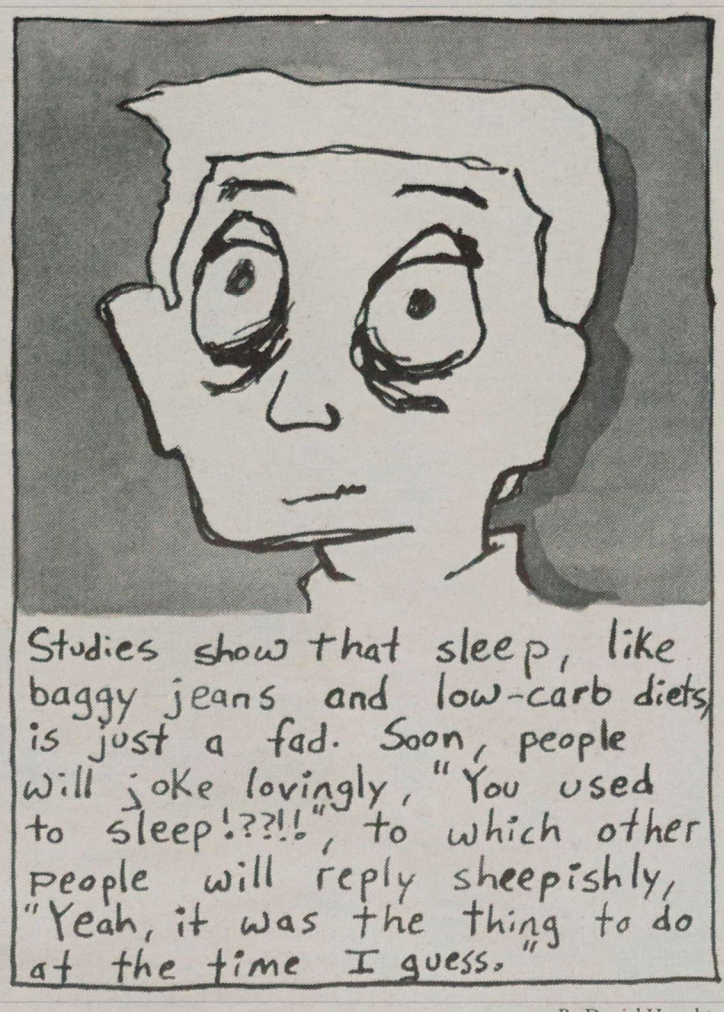

Studies show that sleep, like baggy jeans and low-carb diets, is just a fad. Soon, people will joke lovingly, "You used to sleep!??!!", to which other people will reply sheepishly, "Yeah, it was the thing to do at the time I guess."

By Daniel Houghton

Faculty support department merge

We write to provide some factual information to help clarify the current discussions involving the proposed restructuring of the departments of American Literature and Civilization and English as covered in recent *Middlebury Campus* articles. Beginning with a proposal generated by the faculty in American Literature and Civilization, last spring each department voted overwhelmingly (7-2 and 11-3, respectively) to pursue these changes: the transformation of the English major and department into English and American Literatures; and the transformation of the current Department of American Literature and Civilization into a more fully interdisciplinary American Studies Department. While we acknowledge the loss of the separate major in American Literature, an honorable tradition at Middlebury, we welcome the multiplication of contexts in which students will be able to study American texts — among other literature in English — in one department, and in cultural and historical context in the other. We anticipate no significant reduction in the teaching of American literature at the College. We will continue to offer a two-semester survey of major texts in American literature every year, and we welcome the chance to teach courses which offer American, British and other Anglophone texts alongside one another. In addition, we wish to state clearly and unequivocally that the requirements of the proposed English and American Literatures major *will* allow for the in-depth study of American literature. In the new department, students would be allowed (but not required) to take as many as six of their 11 courses toward the completion of the major in American literary subjects.

We strongly believe that these proposed modifications to the curriculum will strengthen, not diminish, the study of American literature at Middlebury. The College's distinguished tradition in American literary studies will continue only as faculty gain opportunities to participate in the promising developments that characterize the field of American literature nationally. Certainly, unique fields of study can give a college's curriculum distinction, but not when, in the pursuit of uniqueness, accountability to national and international standards of scholarship and teaching is sacrificed. If the members of the Middlebury community are committed to maintaining our national reputation — if we wish to attract nationally competitive faculty and students in the future — then we must ensure that our finest traditions, like the study of American literature, remain *dynamic* and *living* traditions. We support these proposed curricular changes in order to strengthen the tradition of teaching American literature at Middlebury.

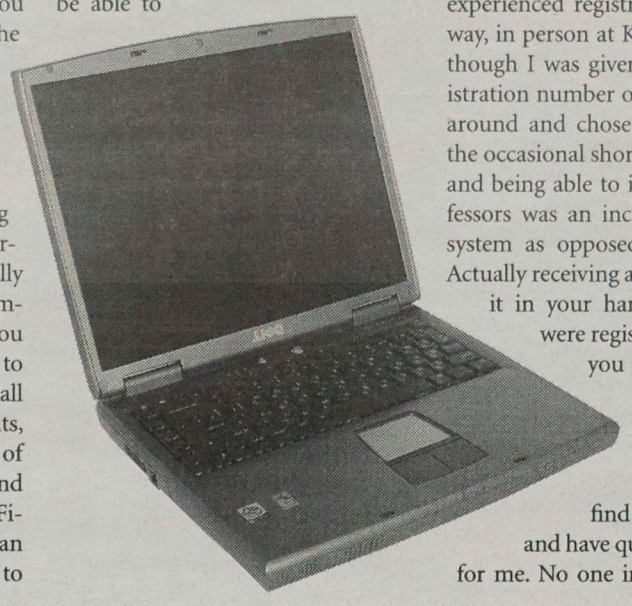
Holly Allen, Assistant Professor of American Literature and Civilization, Director of the Program in American Civilization
Cates Baldridge, Chair of the Department of English
Brett Millier, Chair of the Department of American Literature and Civilization, Reginald L. Cook Professor of American Literature
David H. Bain, Lecturer in English/Creative Writing
Dan Brayton, Visiting Assistant Professor of English
Robert Cohen, Associate Professor of English
John Elder, Stewart Professor of English and Environmental Studies
Deborah M. Evans, Visiting Assistant Professor of American Literature and Civilization
Karl Lindholm, Assistant Professor of American Literature and Civilization, Dean of Advising
Antonia Losano, Assistant Professor English
Jason Mittell, Assistant Professor of American Civilization and Film & Media Culture
William R. Nash, Associate Professor of American Literature and Civilization
Michael Newbury, Associate Professor of American Literature and Civilization
Yumna Siddiqi, Assistant Professor of English
Tim Spears, Professor of American Literature and Civilization, Dean of the College
Marion Wells, Associate Professor of English

BannerWeb busts in registration

Here's a mental image for all those in support of BannerWeb. Your alarm goes off and you look at your watch — it's 6:45 in the morning. You crawl out of bed in a daze and over to your computer. You hear the rustling of your roommate and everyone else on your hall getting up and getting ready. You sign in to BannerWeb, hopeful and nervous. As 7a.m. rolls around, you try to get to the sign-up page, but your computer won't load. The frustration sets in — you know that spaces are filling up by the second in all the classes you really want, and there's nothing you can do about it except stare at the screen in agony. The fact that it's only 7a.m. escalates your emotions, as well as the emotions of those in the rooms and floors surrounding you.

You hear girls nearby fighting and crying, boys yelling and swearing at the screen. You run frantically to other rooms trying to find a computer that will get you where you want, but in every room you go to there is the same situation. The hall is packed with panicking students, tensions brimming. Every one of them is cursing out BannerWeb and everything else on their mind. Finally, you find a computer you can log onto fairly quickly. You get to the desired page, type in your course numbers and find that all the classes you really wanted and needed for the spring semester have filled up. You panic again, and in desperation find a couple backup courses with spots and register.

You leave the room and head back to your room crestfallen, extremely unsatisfied and left with classes you weren't really that interested in and thought you wouldn't have to resort to. You start to think about your whole college career and how this will affect it — how you won't be able to



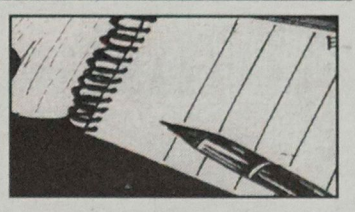
take Spanish and therefore will have to take it all of sophomore year and do a summer program before going abroad, or how you can't get into the basic literature course and therefore will be stressed about fulfilling a major requirements for the rest of your time at Middlebury. Everything about your future at Middlebury seems bleak, and as you lie back down in your bed you think about the wretched BannerWeb system and how it has screwed you over once again.

As an incoming freshman, I first experienced registration the correct way, in person at Kenyon arena. Although I was given an abismal registration number of 576, as I walked around and chose my classes, only the occasional short line held me up, and being able to interact with professors was an incredibly improved system as opposed to BannerWeb. Actually receiving a card and holding it in your hand, knowing you were registered for the class you wanted was very gratifying. And while I did get a bad number, I was still able to find classes I wanted, and have questions answered for me. No one in the building seemed stressed at all. The order was not decided by the speed of your computer, but by a simple and fair drawing.

Another issue with the BannerWeb system is that after getting such a bad number first semester, I was told that second semester I would get a very good number in return, but this is not the case with BannerWeb. I also am the owner of a Mac, and Mac's already have a reputation for being awful with BannerWeb, which I have experienced first hand.

Even though I had an awful registration number first semester, I came out of the process more satisfied than with the disorderly BannerWeb system. There is the occasionally student who gets all of the classes he/she wants and "loves" BannerWeb, but nine out of 10 kids I listen to talking about BannerWeb are ranting as opposed to praising. You simply cannot have a registration system based on such an arbitrary factor as computer speed. For those who installed this program, I speak for the majority of stressed out Middlebury students in saying please get rid of it and go back to the simple, old-fashioned system.

NICK FAGER '07
AN UNDECIDED MAJOR
FROM NEW CANAAN, CT.



NOTES
FROM THE DESK

I'm a senior this year, staring down the challenges that face every class of 2005-er: a heavy workload, an approaching graduation date and the stomach-clenching dread that inevitably accompanies that hated question that we all hear so often — "So, what are *you* doing next year?"

Surely not everybody feels the uneasiness I do upon hearing this question. I hear stories of other seniors who have been conscientiously participating in every CSO-sponsored event and who have that CSO Fall calendar tacked to their bulletin board. I even hear that there are a sizable number of seniors who actually have a job already.

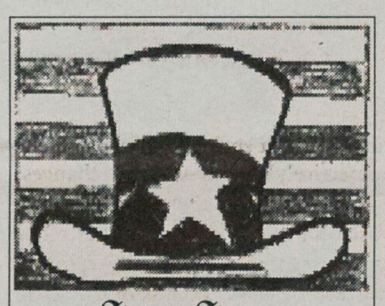
And the rest of us seniors, what do we think about when we hear that question? Well, I would say we're split into two groups — the Grad-Schoolers, who are obsessed with studying for the GRE and applying to graduate schools. And then there are the Rest.

Clearly I'm one of the Rest, one of those who doesn't know exactly what I'm going to do with my International Studies major. The way I see it, I have enough to worry about here at school before I stress out too much about what's going to come after. I have some ideas, but I won't let them take precedence over my education.

I honestly hate the idea of sacrificing my learning while I'm here at Middlebury for the sake of pursuing a post-graduation job. While I was in Italy last year, some of my friends pointed out to me the American mentality of always planning ahead so much that we tend to lose sight of the value of what we're actually supposed to be doing, and I think it's a valuable criticism. In high school we obsess over trying to get into our dream college, and in college we stuff our résumé with internships and manically look ahead to what we're going to "do" with our lives.

I think it's valuable to slow down and take this job-search process a little less seriously. Yes, consult with CSO, learn about MOJO, make some contacts and inform yourself, but don't forget you have the rest of your life to find a job. Remember where you are and take full advantage of what this place has to offer, we're going to be gone all too soon.

NICK EMERY '04
ASSOCIATE EDITOR
THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS



Sam Says
A Political Commentary
By Sam Wilson

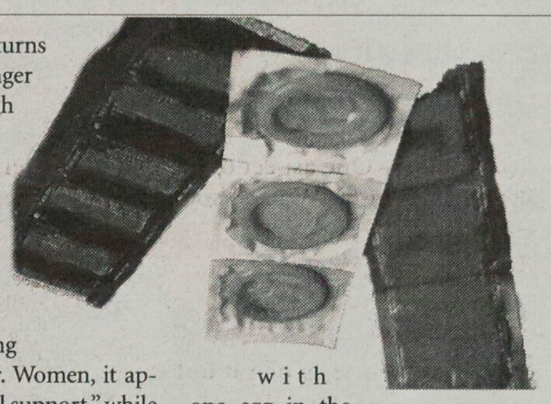
I doubt that very many people would argue with the idea that adolescents need to be educated about sex. At the same time that hormones kick in, we start giving them more freedom and responsibility, cars, extended curfews and so on. It is a crazy time to live through, and teenagers need some sort of grounding.

The Bush Administration believes that adolescents should be taught only that abstinence is the sole way to prevent unwanted pregnancy and STDs. But others claim, rightly, that teenagers are going to have sex regardless of what they are told. Therefore, they should learn about contraceptives to make the sex safer.

I am not so concerned with who is right and who is wrong, but rather with where my tax dollars are going. Last week, Representative Henry Waxman (D — California) released a report on what our federally funded abstinence-only sex education curricula are actually teaching. The report leads like an *Onion* article. Unfortunately, it is true.

Of the various abstinence-only curricula out there, 11 of the 13 most used programs have problems. Luckily, some of these problems are small. For example, claiming that people get 24 chromosomes from each parent is not true. We all got 23 from mom and 23 from dad.

Another inconsequential error found comes from one curriculum that teaches that HIV can be transmitted through sweat and tears. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention disagrees, stating, "Contact with saliva, tears, or sweat has never been shown to result in transmission of HIV." As I was a teenager not too long ago, I still feel that I am reasonably savvy about their ways. One thing that really turns on the angst and anger producers in a high school kid is the discovery that the "facts" they have been taught are really falsehoods.



The report found some interesting things being taught about gender. Women, it appears, need "financial support," while men desire "admiration." Another curriculum, called Why kNOw, explains, "Women gauge their happiness and judge their success by their relationships. Men's happiness and success hinge on their accomplishments."

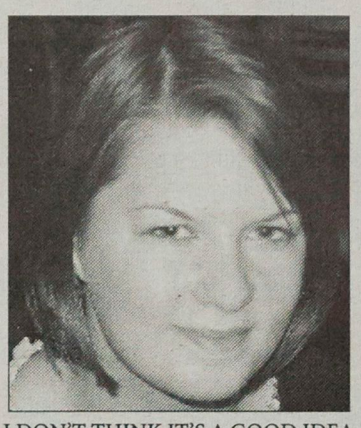
But these factual errors and antiquated ideas on gender are not the worst of the report. Some of the lessons seem clearly designed to advance conservative ideals at the expense of education.

Pro-life opinions have been taught as fact. A middle school program, called "The FACTS", teaches, "Conception, also known as fertilization, occurs when one sperm unites with one egg in the upper third of the fallopian tube. This is when life begins." Another states that a 43-day-old fetus is a "thinking person." The program "Me, My World, My Future" claims that women who undergo an abortion are likely to be sterilized by the process, despite the fact that standard obstetrics textbooks say fertility is not affected by elective abortion.

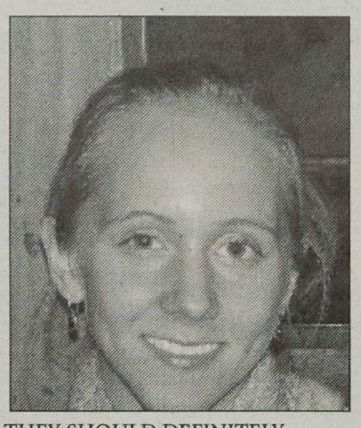
Wow. This is comparable to freshman Civics teaching that disagreeing with the President is equal to hating America. This is indoctrinating the youth of the nation.

Tax dollars should not pay for this bad science, or the propagation of dated gender roles.

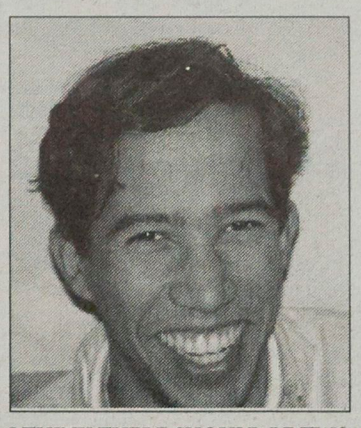
The Middlebury Campus online poll



I DON'T THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA BECAUSE IT'S NOT THE SAME THING. AMERICAN LITERATURE FITS WITH AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE, NOT ENGLISH.
— DANIELLE BEETON, AN EXCHANGE STUDENT FROM ENGLAND

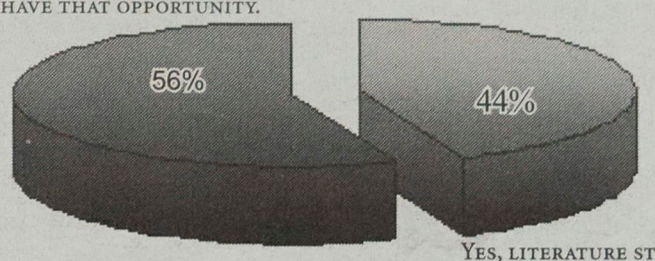


THEY SHOULD DEFINITELY MERGE. THE CURRENT DIVISION SEEMS UNNATURAL — ANYONE INTERESTED IN ONE OF THEM WOULD PROBABLY WANT TO STUDY THE OTHER TOO.
— KIM HULTS '06



I THINK THERE SHOULD BE TWO SEPARATE DEPARTMENTS BECAUSE WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT THERE'S AN AMERICAN CANON OF LITERATURE.
— ALFONSO MARAVER '05

SHOULD AMERICAN LITERATURE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE BECOME ONE DEPARTMENT?


No, students who want to focus on American Literature should have that opportunity.
56%
44%
Yes, literature students who want the best of both worlds need one department.

Results based on 63 responses collected between Dec. 2 and Dec. 7 at www.middleburycampus.com

NEXT ISSUE'S POLL QUESTION: DO YOU LIKE THE DATING SCENE AT MIDD?

Alumnus says American Lit enriches College

The proposed elimination of the American Literature major and the absorption of the Department of American Literature and Civilization into the English Department may at first appear matters of concern only to faculty and majors in the two departments. Yet the requirement that such changes must be put to a vote before the entire faculty recognizes their significance for the College as a whole. I would like to suggest a few reasons why faculty and students outside the department should care about this decision.

On a practical level, the existence of separate English and American Literature departments has been a distinctive feature of the Middlebury curriculum for the past 80 years. Proponents of eliminating the American Literature department apparently believe that Middlebury should remake itself in the image of other colleges: the merger proposal states in its first paragraph that American Literature and English "are, at every other institution of higher learning, one major." In the midst of the mass mall-ification that pushes our culture towards a homogeneity shaped by the lowest common denominator, Middlebury stands out. Thank goodness. When high school seniors complain, rightly, that there is too little basis for distinguishing among the majority of liberal arts colleges, the existence of separate English and American Literature departments helps to single Middlebury out from the pack. It is a sign that this college takes the study of literature seriously. Furthermore, it is part of a larger tradition of fostering original, independent thinking. Wouldn't it be a terrible shame to lose this manifestation of Middlebury's distinct character?

The American Literature Department is a sign that this college takes the study of literature seriously.

On a philosophical level, axing American Literature as a separate discipline would buck a tendency that has characterized Western intellectual history since the Middle Ages. The medieval exegetical tradition yielded to the specialized practices of Literature and Natural History. Natural history spawned physics, chemistry and biology. Each of these continues to divide into further sub-specializations. Of course all remain connected to one another, sharing a wide range of assumptions, empirical materials and essential practices, and in recent years interdisciplinary studies have proliferated. Faculty in physics and literature, for instance, increasingly enter into collaborative study and teaching arrangements. Does such collaboration indicate that departmental distinctions should be abolished? Few would argue in favor of this, yet the proposal to subsume American Literature within English cites collaboration among members of the two departments as a rationale for eliminating their distinction. This is counterproductive. Disciplinary distinctions make interdisciplinary work possible, and interdisciplinary work does not negate disciplinary differences (perhaps ironically, it fosters the development of yet more disciplinary divisions, such as history of science, philosophy of science, and science and literature studies). Middlebury is ahead of other institutions here. Why take a step backward?

On a personal level, Middlebury fostered in me an ongoing interest in cross-disciplinary studies. I double majored in American Literature and English, which led to a year in England on a Watson Fellowship studying American expatriate writers. Middlebury also prepared me for Boston University, which I attended as the Starbuck Fellow in Poetry, and Rutgers, from which I received a PhD in English. Stephen Donadio's 20th century American culture class laid the groundwork for my first book — an interdisciplinary study of the relationship between literature and physics in the context of the development of the first atomic bombs. A subsequent volume of poems, *The Invisible World*, takes its title from Cotton Mather's *Wonders of the Invisible World*, a book I first encountered in John McWilliams's early American literature class. While all of these endeavors share a debt to Middlebury, they are also united by a further goal: an effort to bridge divides between cultures and disciplines. Clearly, I see the common ground shared by different departments, but my experience has confirmed the wisdom of distinctions. The American Literature Department first taught me how to tackle interdisciplinary work, and I would hate to see current and future students deprived of the opportunities it could open up for them as well.

In the end, retaining an American Literature major at Middlebury is a decision that involves, or should involve, everyone in the community. For the reasons I've outlined, I believe the outcome has practical, philosophical and personal implications that reflect on the character of the College as a whole. Although there are serious points to be made on either side of the debate and real difficulties involved, I believe that the difficulties that characterize the American Literature major at Middlebury are immensely productive. The existence of a disciplinary boundary between English and American Literature, as between other disciplines within a liberal arts environment, makes it possible for students to undertake difficult crossings that yield a depth and breadth of knowledge impossible to obtain by any other means.

The American Literature Department first taught me how to tackle interdisciplinary work, and I would hate to see current and future students deprived of the opportunities it could open up for them as well.

JOHN CANADAY '83
A DOUBLE ENGLISH & AMERICAN LITERATURE MAJOR
FROM ARLINGTON, MA.

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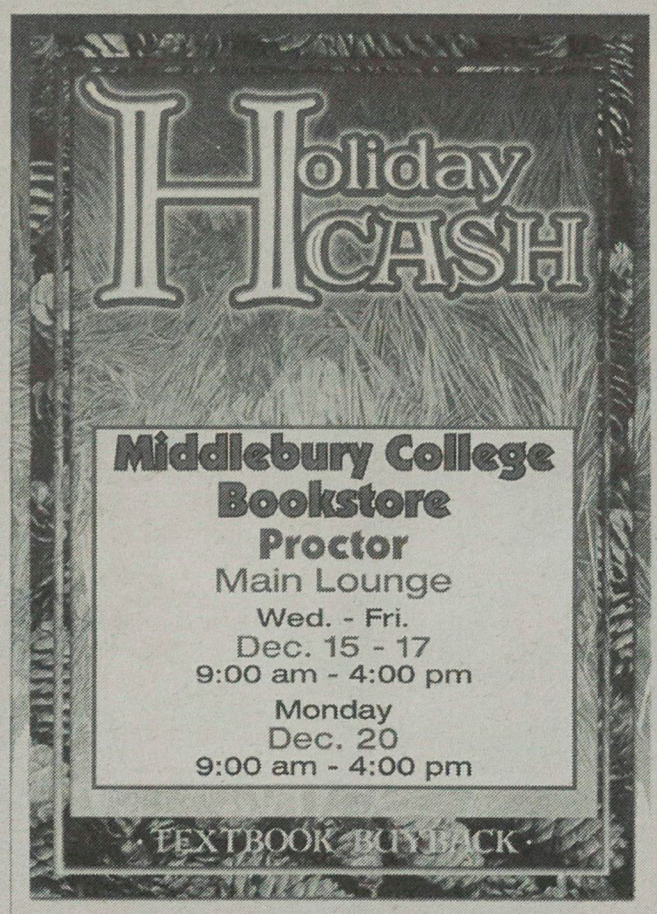


Julia Alvarez

Thursday, Dec 9th 4:00p.m.
Main Lounge, Proctor Hall

Julia Alvarez will read from and sign copies of her newest book *Finding Miracles.*

Copies of all her children's books will be available at special discounted prices.

features

12
FEEL THE RHYTHM
RIDDIM ELECTRIFIES WILD AUDIENCE

13
HOMEWARD BOUND
SGA SPONSORS STUDENT SHUTTLES TO NYC AND BOSTON

14
CRUNCH TIME
CRAMMING VS PLANNING FOR UPCOMING EXAMS

15
LOVE IS IN THE AIR
FIGHT THE WINTER FROST WITH A HOT NEW ROMANCE

RIDDIM presents Middnight Fever

By Laura K. Budzyna
Staff Writer

Albert Bitici

Members of the dance troupe Riddim pump up the crowd with their synchronized, energized dance moves.

In the moments before 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 4, McCullough Social Space was already brimming over with energy. A pulsing rhythm washed over the audience with hundreds of students in rows, at tables and camping out on the balcony. On stage, a slide show of black and white photographs of each RIDDIM dancer flickered across the backdrop, and streamers of green and gold gleamed from the front of the stage. A video clip reminiscent of "The Blair Witch Project" transitioned into a group of RIDDIM dancers standing on stage under red and blue lights against a jungle-like background — Middnight Fever had begun.

What followed was an hour of fast-paced, athletic and explosive dance routines that had the audience screaming their approval. Performing 10 separate numbers, each one more dynamic than the last, the 21 members of the RIDDIM World Dance Troupe wowed the audience members so frequently that the transitions between dances provided a much-needed chance for them to catch their breath. A medley of hip-hop, breakdance, ballet and Latin styles came together to create a singular impact of pure energy.

"I Gotta Confess" by Usher and Alicia Keyes, "Little Wing" by Stevie Ray Vaughn and "Me Huele a Rumba" by Celia Cruz were just a handful of the pieces showcased on Saturday, demonstrating the variety of dance styles — from hip-hop to jazz to salsa. Each dance had its own choreographer, who was not only responsible for the dance's moves, but also for its lighting, music and costumes. The performances were very eclectic. A hip-hop number with all-male dancers in jackets and ties could be followed by salsa dancers in a palette of red, orange and black. Or a a bluesy ballet could come after a muscled urban number in browns and grays. The fast-paced lighting cues switched from greens to reds to yellows, adding extra power to each routine. Because of this assortment of styles and media, RIDDIM kept audiences captivated for the entire performance.

Though each dance had its own unifying theme, the most striking thing about Middnight Fever was that there was nothing uniform about it. Instead of being a geometric pattern of identical dancers, it was a show of individuals. Each dancer had his or her own magnetism and interpretation of every motion. By the end of the night, the audience had a sense of the personalities of each performer. Director Charzetta Nixon '06 was thrilled about this response. "This is something we want! We want the audience to have fun and connect with the dancers!" she said.

RIDDIM dancer Karen Lee '05 explained this approach, "Each dancer has their own style, which is a reflection of their own personality. In each piece, we concentrate on being a unified group, whether it is hitting that one step in unison or carrying a certain facial expression. On the other hand, we all recognize each other as being unique and distinct. RIDDIM encourages these differences to be an important component to our troupe because that is what gives us that extra flair." Commons Residential Advisor (CRA) Jan'l Hastings-Robinson '04, another RIDDIM member, agreed. "Because there are no favorites in the group, everyone feels comfortable letting their light shine through," she said.

All the dancers agreed that the audience played a huge role in the success of this year's very interactive event. Performer Sully Diaz '06 commented on their enthusiasm. "They are the ones that build our adrenaline rush. The louder and more hyper the crowd, the more energy we give back to them. People were out of their seats, dancing with us, yelling out our names — the energy in that social space was unbelievable," she said.

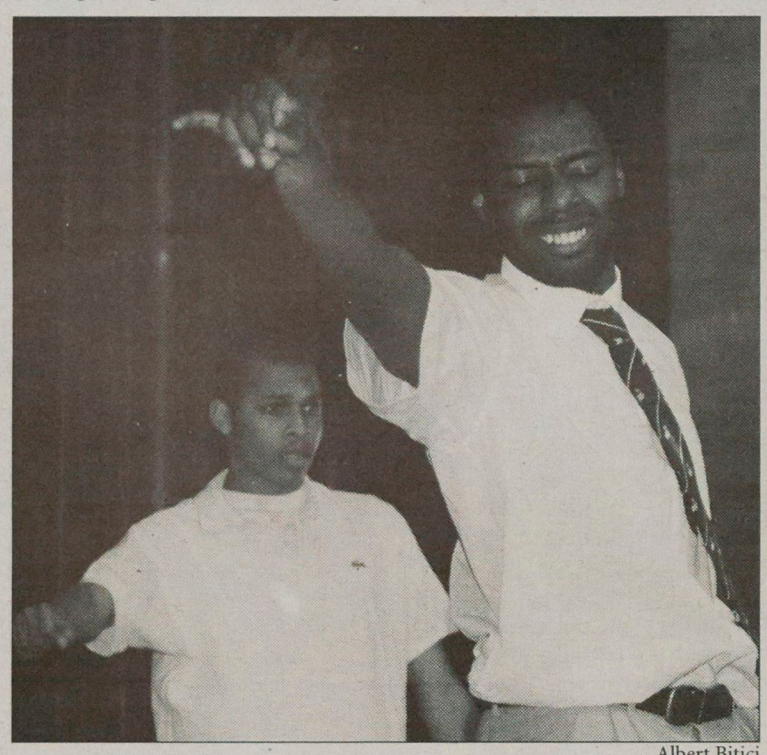
The troupe seemed to agree that the second and final performance at 9:30 p.m. gleaned the biggest response. According to Hastings-Robinson, the audience "brought the house down with screaming and cheering [and] standing ovations. You name it, they did it. This energy transferred to us and we danced our socks off," she said.

Co-director Muchadei Zvoma '07 estimated that RIDDIM sold at least 350 tickets for each performance, totaling 700 tickets and $2,100. Half of these funds will go to Addison County charities.

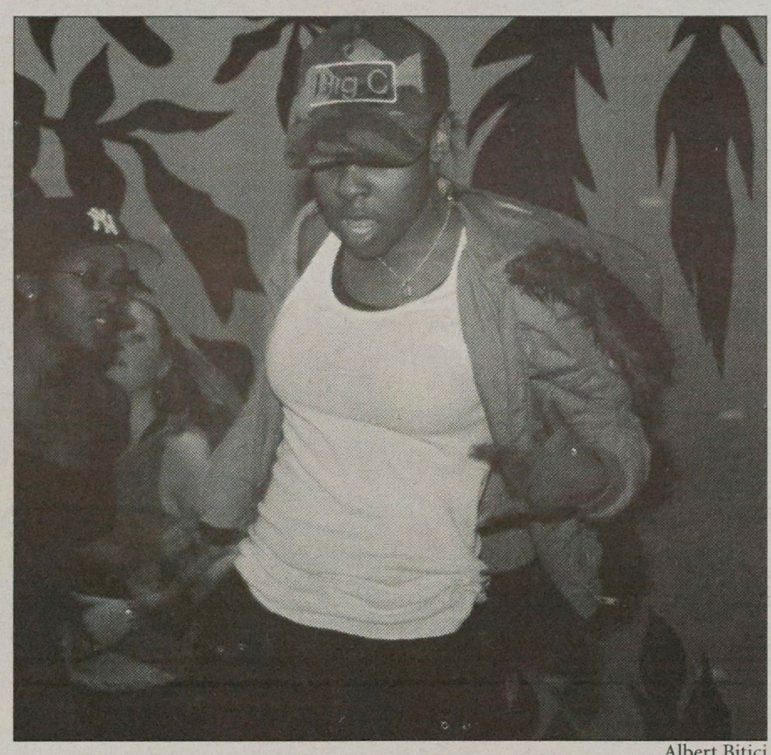
When asked about his response to Middnight Fever, Kellan Florio '05 said, "It absolutely blew my mind. It was worth my three dollars." Virginia Harr '06 said of RIDDIM, "I think it's the best student performing group on campus. It's been my favorite performance yet this year." Liz Somes '06 added, "This is the one show everyone looks forward to." The enthusiasm from the stage seemed to be contagious — only 10 minutes into the show, Ellie Molyneux '08 turned around and said, "Let's go to a dance party tonight!"

The troupe is an extremely tight-knit circle, often referred to as "the RIDDIM family." As Zvoma explained, "California, New York, Alberta, Canada, Maine, Nairobi, Kenya, Wyoming, Florida, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Harare, Zimbabwe — and that is speaking in such general terms — RIDDIM is from all over the globe and is thus ridiculously diverse, but at the same time we have a passion for music and dance which brings us together." Diaz cannot overstate the closeness of the group. "This is my first time dancing with the RIDDIM Troupe, and the support and love that I received from every single member was and still is an amazing feeling. We are each other's number one fans," she said. Carlos Beato '07 summed it up, "There is nothing but love between us."

The energy of Middnight Fever glowed from the dynamic performers on stage, from the audience in the lobby of McCullough, and even from the number of exclamation points in the program (no less than 25). RIDDIM is now ready to get in gear for their spring show, which judging by last weekend's performance, promises to electrify Middlebury College once again in 2005.



Albert Bitici



Albert Bitici

Left: ReNard Rogers '07 and Muchadei Zvoma '07 bring their individual styles to the stage during Saturday night's performance.
Right: Charzetta Nixon '06 shows off her moves against the Jungle-themed background that decorated the stage during RIDDIM's sold-out show.

Midd kids give thanks for SGA Thanksgiving break shuttle services to Boston and New York

Environmentally friendly and economical transport option for Midd students

By Max Nardini
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association (SGA) first put their shuttle system into operation this Thanksgiving break with the aim of providing a cheaper means of mass transportation to New York City and Boston.

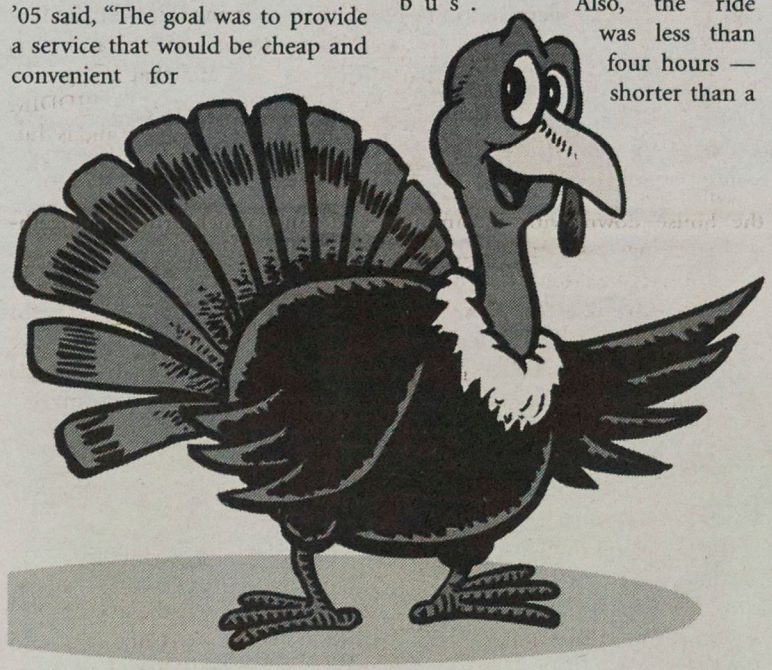
Before Thanksgiving, the dining halls and other areas where students typically congregate were flooded with signs advertising transportation options. But the SGA shuttles offered one of the most enticing deals — $50 roundtrip to New York City and $35 roundtrip to Boston.

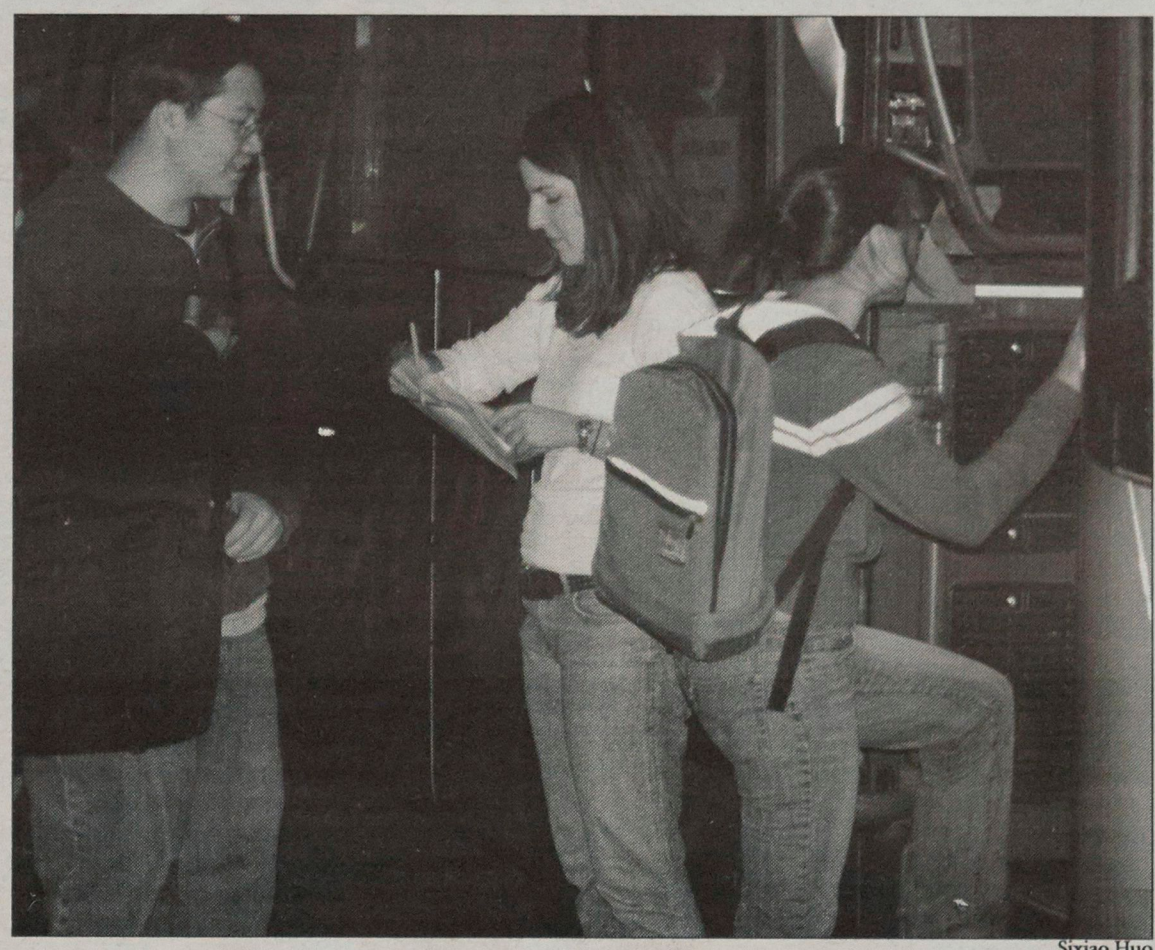
Clare O'Reilly, SGA director of academic affairs, came up with the idea of providing the shuttles. The idea came up during a discussion about a Carbon Reduction Initiative with Connie Bisson, campus sustainability coordinator.

SGA President Andrew Jacobi '05 said, "The goal was to provide a service that would be cheap and convenient for students, but would also be consistent with the College's goal of reducing carbon emissions." It was hoped that this mass transportation option would reduce the number of cars on the road and lower the number of students flying home.

Student surveys indicate an overall positive response to this new program. According to O'Reilly, students praised the convenience and efficiency of the service. New York City suburbanites, however, would have prefered additional stops outside the city limits. The length of the trip to New York City was an issue for some due to the amount of traffic, as well.

Byung Kyu Park '08 had a positive experience with the service overall and described it as being "better than expected." He was particularly pleased by the cost and length of the trip to Boston. "It was much cheaper than a Greyhound bus. Also, the ride was less than four hours — shorter than a Greyhound bus ride."





Sixiao Huo

Students board the SGA sponsored shuttles as they begin their journeys home for Thanksgiving break.

Briahnna Skinner '08 agreed that the service was satisfying. She would like to see several drop off points within Boston in the future. Skinner said, "They need a drop off point other than South Station. It just didn't work. Other than that it was good, though."

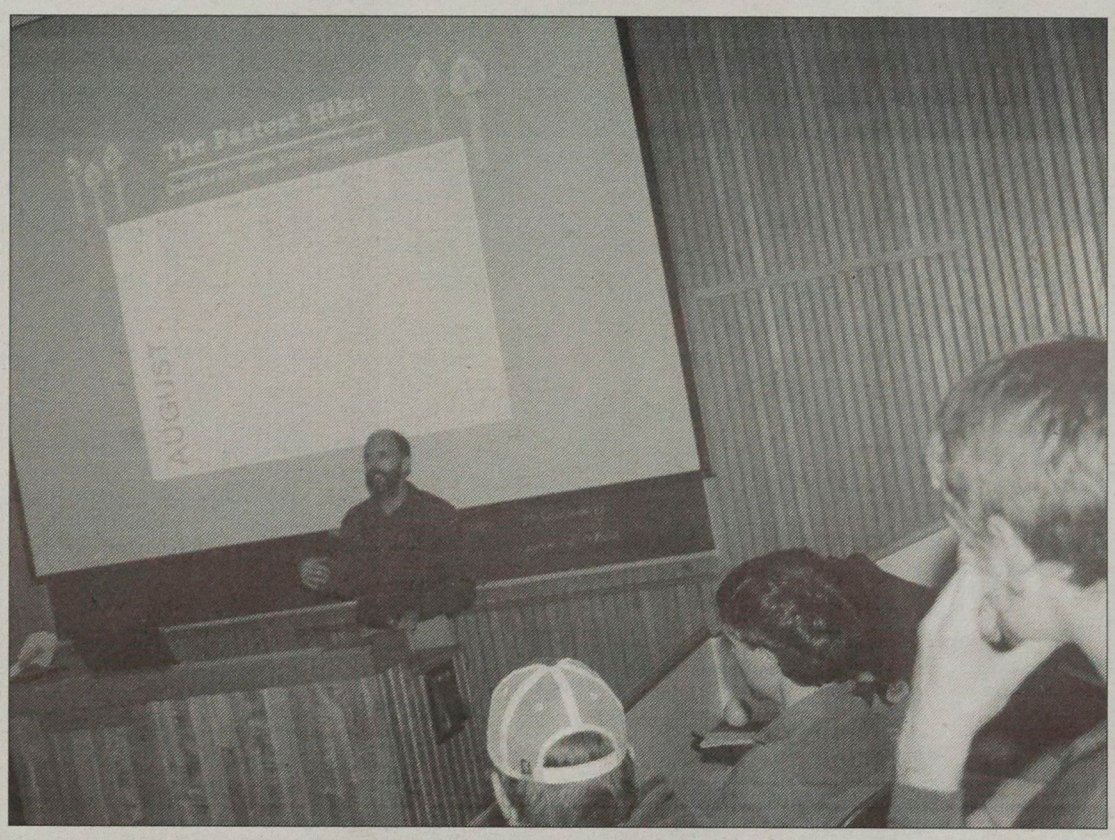
Jacobi believes that this program has a future at Middlebury. "I would say that the success of Thanksgiving shuttles and the demand for tickets from students means that we would like to see this program continue," he stated. Though he admitted that there were some "minor setbacks and kinks," he is confident that this program was a "huge success." O'Reilly is exploring the possibility of offering a SGA shuttle service for February and Spring breaks.

For many Middlebury students, the Middlebury SGA shuttles provided their only means of traveling off campus over the holiday. While there were other alternatives, for students who lacked cars and friends, and for students who wanted to avoid the hassles of flying, the shuttle service seemed to be an excellent option.

If nothing else, Middlebury College pride is a reason to implement this service. "Williams has a bus service for their students over breaks that is very extensive — hopefully we can move towards something like this in the future," said O'Reilly.

The goal was to provide a service that would be cheap and convenient for students, but woud also be consistent with the College's goal of reducing carbon emissions. —Andrew Jacobi '05,

THE FASTEST HIKE



Julia Randall

Co-sponsored by Atwater Commons and the Computer Science Department, *The Fastest Hike* featured slides and stories depicting Ray Greenlaw's record completion of the Pacific Coast Trail.

PANTHER TOP 10

What music makes the Middlebury Charts? Here are the weekly top Napster downloads on campus.

RATING - ARTIST - ALBUM - TRACK

1 - Cat Stevens - Footsteps in the Dark: Greatest Hits, Vol. 2 - The Wind

2 - Nelly - Suit - Over and Over

3 - Mario - Let Me Love You - Let Me Love You

4 - Vanessa Carlton - White Houses - White Houses

5 - Destiny's Child - Lose My Breath - Lose My Breath

6 - Jack Johnson - Brushfire Fairytales - Flake

7 - Maroon 5 - Songs About Jane - She Will Be Loved

8 - John Mayer - Heavier Things - Daughters

9 - Jack Johnson - On and On - Traffic In The Sky

10 - Destiny's Child - Destiny Fulfilled - Soldier

How to manage in the final hours

Midd students share how they plan to study for their exams

By Ethan Lake
Staff Writer

Just when Winter Break seems so close at hand, a dark specter looms over the holiday season — exams. These final papers or three hour test-filled nightmares suck the joy right out of the month of December.

While nothing written here can ameliorate the collective agony experienced by Middlebury College students during finals week, some light can be shed on how other students prepare for finals, which may give you some ideas on how to survive the upcoming week.

Perhaps the experiences of the juniors and sophomores interviewed can serve as a guide for other students.

Tim Leavitt '06, a film major, reports that he generally reviews his required course readings and his notes on the reading. Then Leavitt goes over his class notes until he feels prepared for each of his finals. He claims that it takes approximately six hours of studying per final for him to feel adequately prepared and familiar with the material.

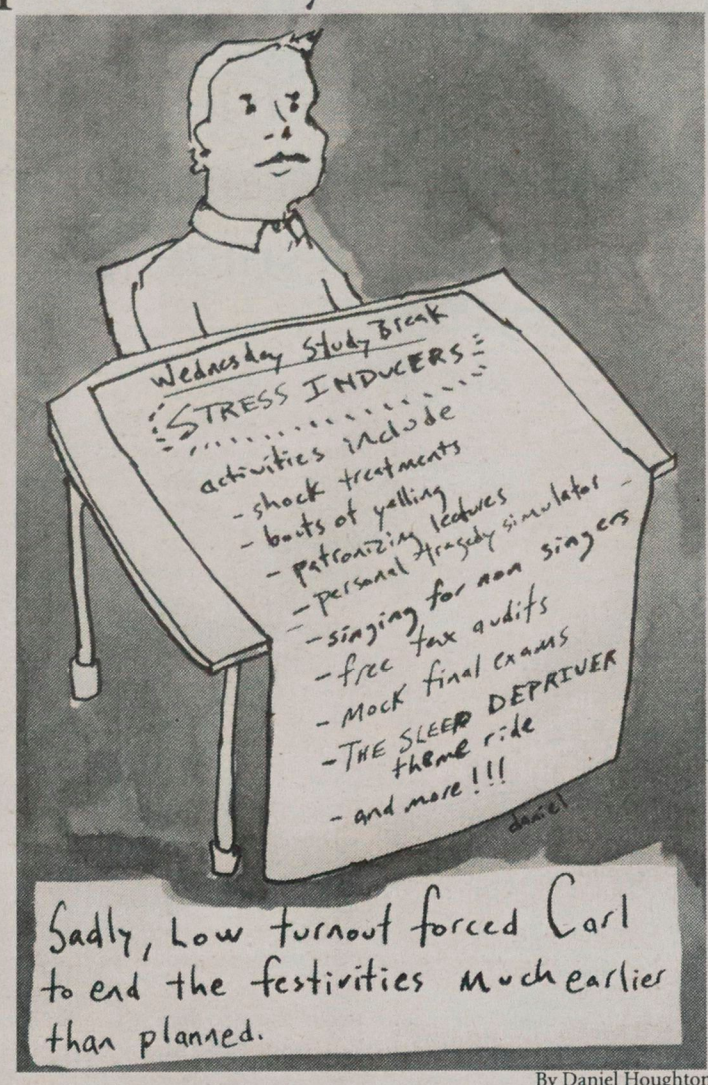
Christine Winkler '07, a psychology major, said that her approach to studying involves doing many practice tests and problem sets from her textbooks. In humanities courses, however, Winkler said that she concentrates on understanding the concepts of a course, since making connections between the readings is one of the areas where she struggles on exams. She spends less time on memorizing the material. On average she spends about six hours studying for each of her finals.

Brian Abend '06, a mathematics major, says he generally re-reads his notebooks and sometimes chooses to study with others. He says that he generally tries to adopt a "less is more" policy about finals. "My feeling about finals, or any test for that matter, is that if you do not already know the material by the time of the test then it is too late to simply cram the material in. Ideally, you should pay attention in class and absorb the material as it is taught," said Abend. "One problem with courses that contain final evaluations is that they emphasize learning for the test rather than for knowledge. This can be a problem when taking courses for majors, since the higher level courses are based on the 100 level material as well."

Devin Wardell '06.5, an international studies major, said her favorite approach to studying is creating a good study guide. She also likes to spend time studying in groups since classmates "help fill in gaps in my understanding of the material."

The amount of time she spends studying really depends on the course and the professor. If the professor gives lectures in a clear and logical manner she spends less time studying than if the professor tends to give less focused, more scattered lectures. She spends anywhere from three to six hours studying for each of her finals.

Richard Maass '06, a physics major, changes his approach to studying depending on what type of final it is. For his physics finals, he reviews his notes, formula sheets and practice problems. He then memorizes any relevant terms. For humanities courses he starts to re-read the course readings a few days earlier. This approach helped on his Intro to Political Philosophy exam since "re-reading allowed him to recognize the writing styles of the authors and immediately identify passages that appeared on the exam." He admits that this approach to studying is work intensive.


Wednesday Study Break
STRESS INDUCERS
activities include
- shock treatments
- bouts of yelling
- patronizing lectures
- personal tragedy simulator
- singing for non singers
- free tax audits
- Mock final exams
- THE SLEEP DEPRIVER theme ride
- and more!!!
daniel
Sadly, Low turnout forced Carl to end the festivities much earlier than planned.

By Daniel Houghton

Some tips for an effective finals studying experience:

Start early — Leaving more time for preparation means that there is time to correct any last minute problems that might arise.

Plan your study time — Proper planning will help you avoid the need to cram and help you schedule those difficult days when you might have several finals to study for.

Organize your notes — If you have your notes assembled in an ordered fashion you can easily identify what material each section covers and what topics you need to refer back to.

Treat practice problems like an exam — If you can successfully complete practice problems without looking at the textbook then you can feel reasonably confident that you know the material.

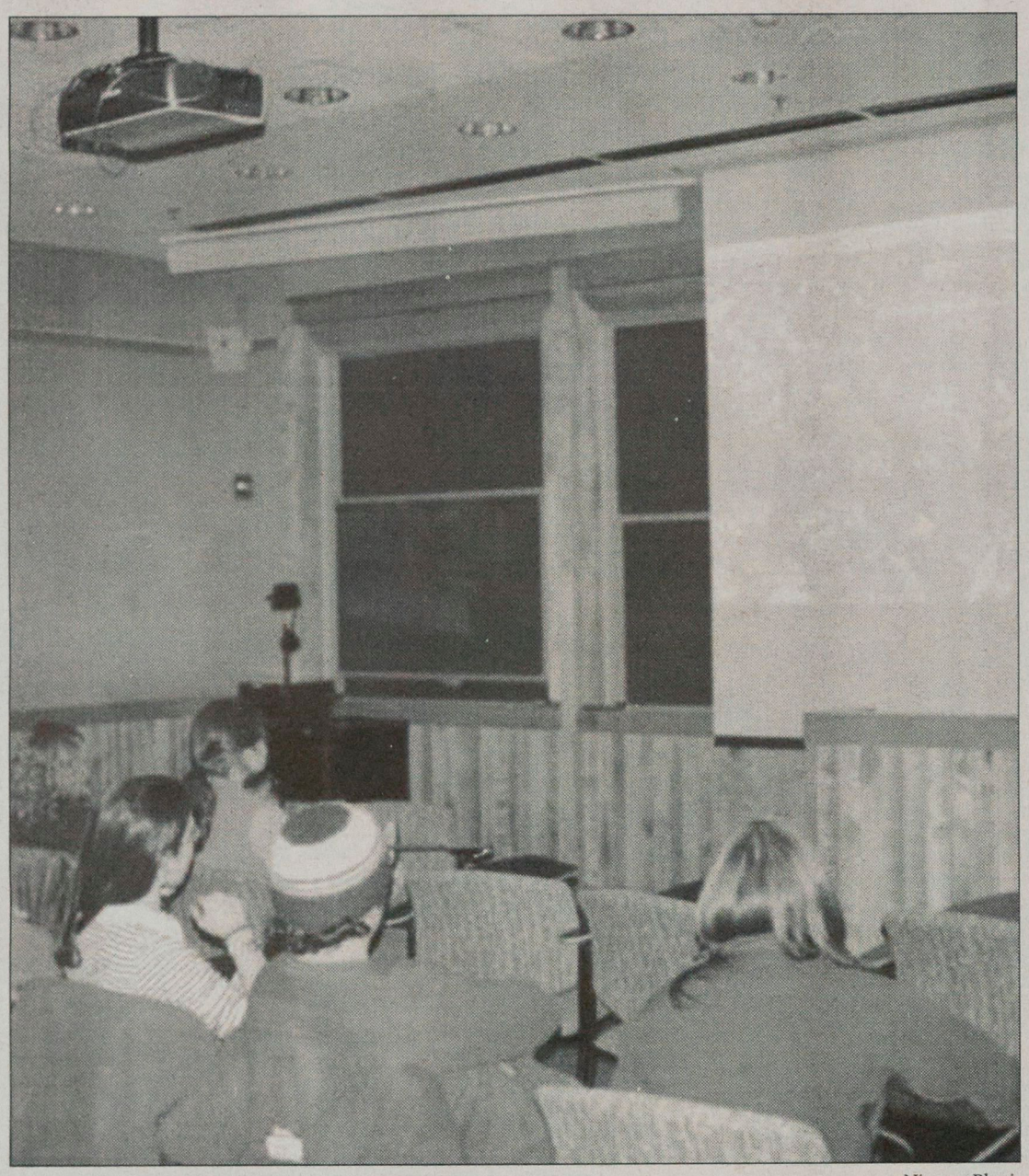
Break up your studying — It helps with information retention to study for a couple of hours and then take a break for an hour before heading back to study. Plus, studying will seem like less of a hardship this way.

Choose groups carefully — Studying with a group can be very beneficial, but only if you actually study. Beware of studying with people who will easily get you off task.

Get sleep — It is much better to get seven or eight hours of sleep before that nine o'clock final than it is to cram all night long. You'll remember more.

Drink water and eat — Hydrate before a test to lubricate your mind. And don't forget to feed it, too.

"Promise"ing film



Nirvana Bhatia

Exploring the Israeli-Palestini conflict in film, the Hilell-sponsored "Promises" told the tale of children who grow up surrounded by the deeply ingrained hate that exists in the Middle East.

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

REAL BOOTS

You know what's great for Vermont in winter? Boots with real tread, real water proofing and real warmth! They don't have to be Merrills either. One can find cheap, effective, non-ugg-ly winter boots as well.

UGGS

Soft flimsy boots with fluffy tops, mini skirts and girlish hops, thick pink tights ... it's got to stop! Save your "I'm a clueless tramp, but don't you dare try to get me in bed or I'll slap you" look for McCullough. It's Vt!

2 WEEKS IN 12 DAYS

In the words of Wilson Phillips, "Hold on for one more day" — or 12 more days as it were. If only you can get through four exams and seven 15-page papers you're free for two weeks! Until it starts all over again...

12 WEEKS IN 7 DAYS

It's that time of year again: time to cram 12 weeks of material into a seven-day testing period. 15 books and 40 articles for a total of 55 — 54 of which you haven't yet read.

INCOGNITO

For non-skiers the cold might be a drag, but let's remember the benefits of hooded coats and balaclavas — helping us hide from professors, employers and students who are still wearing their uggs from last year.

NEATO!

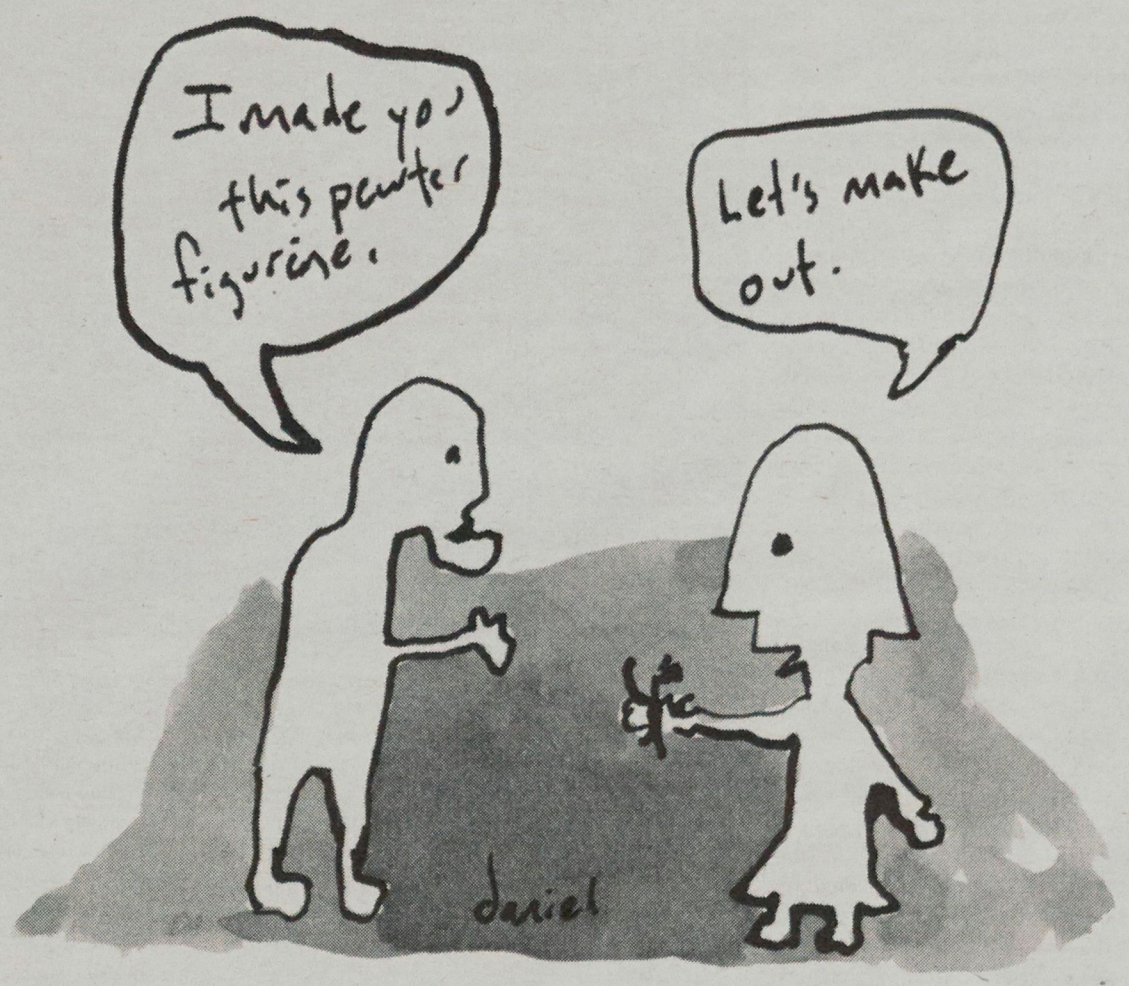
Can someone please tell me why I heard this sad little word proudly trumpeted last Saturday in Ross dining hall. Yes, different can be endearing, but you're being the same ... as your grandparents.

It's getting cold in here, so put on all your clothes — and pair up for winter

By Nura Suleiman & Isabel Yordan
Staff Writers

It's 12:30 p.m., where are you? We're in class right now, but we're not paying a whole lot of attention. Why you ask? Well, even the super studious, like ourselves, cannot be bothered with such things as work right now. It's T minus two weeks and counting. Can you figure out what we are counting down to? Nope, not exams — we're talking about the winter dating scene.

The winter poundage is upon us, so it's time to start pairing off. It's already happening — look around you. People are finding someone to snuggle with and it's not you. But it makes sense. No, not because you are ugly, it is because we live in Vermont. And what is Vermont? It's COLD! Now we are well aware of the difficulties involved in actually talking to someone who gives you that tingly-in-the-tummy-just-say-something-funny-no-no-oh-god-stop-talking-it's-all-over-now-kill-me feeling, so we have provided a list of provisions a Middlebury student can make as we head into the winter.



By Daniel Houghton

One: Buy a fleece. This seems simple. It gets colder, you need more clothes. But we see you. You know who you are. You are that kid who still wears sandals and thinks that's it is all good. It's not. You may be tough, and you may be impervious to the harsh winds, but we don't care. Clothe yourself! We've only been here one winter, but we're pretty wise, so go buy one, borrow one, do whatever you need, just get one!

Two: Take a few tips from the animals. We have all observed how animals deal with the cold — by putting on winter poundage and hording their food. Stop laughing. This is a proven technique. I mean the squirrels have clearly mastered this. That enormous squirrel is getting a heck of a lot more play than you are. Don't start gathering nuts or anything, but, you will be doing some hibernating of your own, so a personal stash of food would be a wise provision. Especially with Proctor closed, you might shy away from trips to the dining hall.

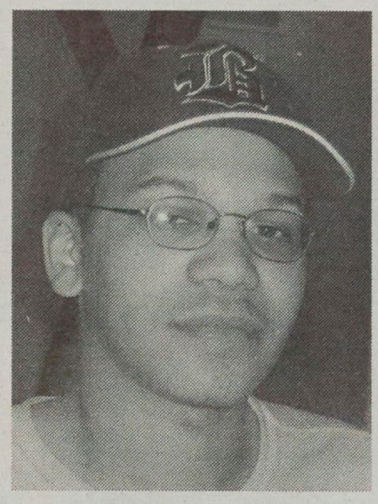
You're in college to learn and what better teacher than Mother Nature. Not only is she providing you with adequate bestial examples, she's also making it icy as hell and easy to fall. Which, by the way, people are doing left and right. We'd like to thank you for making our mornings just that much funnier. We would also like to sound a warning about the hill of death, also known as the hill leading to McCullough.

But lastly, item number three: If you can't find a fleece and you haven't stashed your food away, and you're just too burnt out to learn from Mother Nature, then at least find someone! They don't have to be special, you don't have to have chemistry and they don't really even need to be cute. It's best if they live in your dorm, but take anything you can get. What's important, though, is that they're real and not imaginary. As it gets colder and you go out less and less, it's going to be tricky to find yourself someone to cuddle with. So say something funny, wear something cute and just try to shower once this week. And after you review this article a couple times, go forth and find someone. And then do as the squirels do.

Midd students speak out about Midd's winter dating scene

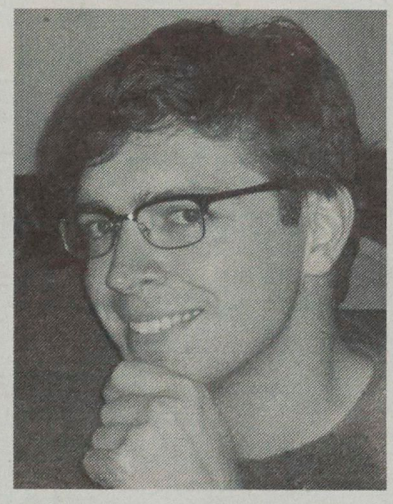
"Every winter I've been at Midd, I've been in a serious relationship. In the winter, because it's cold and dark, specifically in J-Term with all the unstructured time, it's nice to have someone to do things with. I think that J-Term is a time when people value their relationships more."

— Lauren Markham '05.5



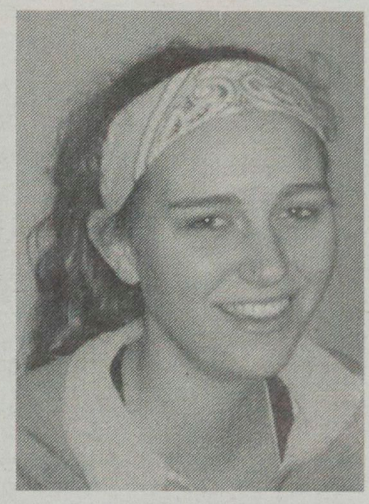
"In J-Term, if you are taking a language, you better understand your soul because you spend a lot of time alone studying. The language becomes your relationship. A lot of people found their chick or their man last winter. The reason people get into relationships more during the winter is that everybody has the urge to cuddle up with someone."

— Brian Willis '07



"Speaking from personal experience, relationships at Middlebury are as desolate as the Vermont winters. I think this has been my experience because I don't hang out at social houses enough. In the winter, random hook-ups are on the rise because no one wants to walk home in the freezing cold, especially if you are a senior living off-campus."

— Matt Longo '04.5



"I did a study for my Psych Stats class to see if a correlation existed between students' GPA and their relationship status. It turned out that people who are in a relationship said that they feel more distracted and their GPAs tend to be lower."

— Hannah Baker '07

BY MATT KUNZWEILER

As much as I dread the closing of Freeman and Hamlin and their deep-battered everything, I am looking forward to leaving behind the TVs in those dining halls that have polluted every lunch and dinner I've had there for the past three years.

I realize that some people are very adamant about getting their daily double dose of ESPN Sports Center — the Headline News for the jug-headed. But after a long day of knuckle-dragging and neck strengthening exercises, no more than a couple dozen students can take comfort in watching sports highlights at full volume during dinner time while sitting on the same side of the table like some idiotic rendition of the Last Supper. Without the TV, they would have to sit facing each other and force awkward conversation about Halo or which team will win this year's Bud Bowl.

But this is not reason enough to make everyone else in the dining hall suffer. Students like FIC because it has a comfortable, personal setting. The TV — perhaps the most obnoxious device ever made and the perfect medium for broadcasting pure garbage — does a fantastic job of ruining the atmosphere, especially when other students have to compete with the volume of commercials and the Sports Center jingle just so they can talk to their friends.

Call me old fashioned, but I was raised with the TV off during dinner. And when I left for college, I did not show up and think: "Oh my gosh! No parents and no bedtimes! And I can watch TV during dinner, too! Sweet!!!" Nor did I feel the urge to jump on my bed or play soccer in the hallways. If you want to watch ESPN while eating, microwave yourself a Hungryman and find an empty lounge — or go to Hooters. Consider it practice for the next 10 years of your life.

I've had a lifelong hatred for TV. In fact, one of my life goals is to be sitting in a Lay-z-boy, dressed only in my boxers and a wife-beater greased with KFC stains, while unloading a handgun clip into a TV without spilling the beer in my left hand. That seems to be about the most American thing someone can do.

But I'm not saying that that's how this particular problem should be solved. In fact, I am generally against handguns. However, the next time the volume goes to high during the top ten plays of the day, I'm changing the channel to the Lifetime Network and taking the batteries out of the remote — and that's as good as shooting the damn thing.

The dining staff I've spoken to say they wish the TV was unplugged long ago and so do the vast majority of people who eat at FIC. Anyway, let's just hope that with the opening of the new Atwater dining hall, people can eat on the north side of campus without being subjected to the insultingly bad taste of a minority of students.

arts

16
MUSIC OF "A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"
ORCHESTRAL PIECES INSPIRED BY THE BARD

17
WMUD
UNDER THE RADAR, BUT ON THE AIRWAVES

18
DISPUTED TERRITORY
PLAY EXAMINES ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

19
OLD GROUND RE-BROKEN
AFTER SIX MONTHS HIGHER GROUND RE-OPENS

Midd Orchestra turns up the heat

By Richard Lawless
Arts Editor

Nirvana Bhatia

Concertmaster Megan Giuliano '07 tunes the orchestra to a perfect pitch before commencing with the concert.

Irony was the key word in the Middlebury College Orchestra's performance on Friday, Dec. 3. The College was greeted with its first substantial snowfall the prior evening, which humorously juxtaposed the orchestra's selected program of music inspired by Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" — a perfectly natural selection for the onslaught of winter in Vermont. In fact, the weather played even more of a role than was anticipated in the night's events, causing slight travel delays for several of the orchestra's members. The evening's repertoire consisted of four pieces ranging from the 17th to the 20th centuries. Orchestra Conductor Troy Peters warmly welcomed the crowd, taking time to explain briefly about the background of each of the pieces performed.

The first piece of the night, French composer Ambroise Thomas' "Overture to 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'" established an excellent standard of quality that was matched throughout the concert. In his address to the audience, Peters theorized that the concert might very well mark the first performance of the piece in the United States, due to Thomas' lack of popularity and exposure in this country. If Peters is correct, then Americans have been deprived for the past 154 years of a piece was nothing short of spectacular.

The piece began slowly and ominously, with a portion of the string section playing sustained minor chords before drifting back into silence, punctuated by brief sections of horns. The strings and horns alternated several times before joining together, combining gently plucked strings with brief flourishes of horns. A trumpet played a solo melody over softly vibrating violins. During the first few minutes, there was a deliberate sense of restraint, as if the orchestra was preparing to burst into a massive symphonic fanfare. Gradually, the orchestra built up momentum, with more and more instruments coming into the mix by the minute. Pizzicato strings soon joined with the horns carrying the melody, supplemented by the vibrato strings. Moments later, the string section took the spotlight, with every instrument sweetly flowing together in a harmony enhanced by melodic flourishes of flute. After a brief pause the strings resumed, more forcefully this time, in a minor key section highlighted by violin solos. The music had the familiar dramatic, swift, minor key ring of one of Brahms' Hungarian Dances, written roughly in the same time period. The music swelled and built into a massive, grandiose climax that filled the concert hall with robust sound. Incredibly dramatic, the climax was indicative of the ridiculous comedy of Shakespeare's play. Cymbals crashed as the timpani drums roared, and horns blared as the strings swelled to their loudest throughout the bright, major chord section. Soon the music receded into a gliding string melody supplemented by rattling snare drums, then expanded once more towards a thundering, extravagant finish.

Gradually, the orchestra built up momentum, with more and more instruments coming into the mix by the minute.

The evening's second piece was French composer Erik Satie's "Cinq Grimaces pour 'Le Songe d'Une Nuit d'été,'" which consisted of five exceedingly brief comic vignettes. The most modern piece of the night, it was written by Satie in 1915 for an abandoned production of the play in a circus tent in Paris. The production was meant to have included music by Igor Stavinsky, Maurice Ravel, and Edgard Varèse, but Satie ended up being the only composer to actually complete his commission. The first of the five short pieces, "Préambule," began with a clatter of cymbals and drums, creating a joyous, carnivalesque cacophony of sounds, before ceasing after a minute or so. The five short pieces were heavy on dissonance, and Satie played with the audience by offering brief instances where instruments would align and the music would take a structured, consonant and melodic turn. Such passages were quickly met with demise either by dissonant chaos or by silence.

British composer Henry Purcell's "Suite From 'The Fairy Queen'" was the third piece of the concert, and drew parallels to Satie's piece with its brief, episodic nature. Comprised of six short sections, the music exhibited a highly humorous, lighthearted nature, which Purcell supplemented with such spectacles as acrobats and dancing monkeys during the piece's original performance in 1692. The majority of the pieces were spirited and light in nature, with the opening section "First Music: Prelude" offering a gorgeous melody handled with great care by the strings. However, the second and fourth selections, entitled "Hornpipe" and "Dance for the followers of Night" respectively, dwelled in minor keys, offering brief instances of melancholy amidst the more mischievous fare.

Perhaps the most famous music of the evening, a selection of three pieces from Felix Mendelssohn's adaptation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" rounded out the concert. Composing this piece mostly at age 17, Mendelssohn was a child prodigy of considerable degree, surpassing even Mozart in terms of talent at such a young age, according to Peters. But revisited and completed when he was in his 30s, Mendelssohn's compositions were comical both in their complexity and in their sunny, lively melodies. The last of the three pieces, "Wedding March," was the instantly recognizable song traditionally played at a wedding as a newly united couple leaves the church. Throughout the performance, the orchestra played with considerable passion, drawing the lively and grandiose piece to a dramatic close, and was greeted with ecstatic applause from an audience clearly delighted with a fine evening's selection of warm, good-humored music.

FESTIVAL OF WREATHS

Julia Randall

Hanging festively on the walls of the CFA, Christmas wreaths ring in the holiday season with evergreen style.

The 'freshest' radio station

By Harrison Kahn
Staff Writer

Has your radio's seek button found "Mud" yet? In an age when much of what we hear on the radio is cluttered with commercials, jingles and loud talk-show hosts, it is no surprise that "Farm Fresh" WMUD 89.3 claims to be a "quite contrary radio station." It broadcasts nonstop music for listeners in a small area of the Champlain Valley, which includes Middlebury.

Chip Morgan, a long-time disc jockey and lover of radio, put WMUD on the air in October 2003. The station plays music that spans the genres of Jazz, Folk and World. "A lot of people have a narrow exposure to music," said Morgan, who aims to expose local listeners to a diverse format of music that he describes as "acoustically oriented."

While tuned in to WMUD, it is not unlikely to hear a reggae classic by Toots and the Maytals following Celtic fiddle tunes, and even Big Band numbers from the 1940s. "It sounds random and jarring," said Morgan, but "that is on purpose — to get people to pay attention." Listeners of WMUD appreciate the unique grouping of songs. Said Cornwall resident and Middlebury College Registrar Office Associate, Eileen Fahey, "I want to hear all different kinds of music. Mud's great."

Songs played on WMUD are not typically heard on other radio stations — and songs heard on other frequencies will probably never be heard on WMUD. Morgan, who describes his station as "educational," picks songs that are not primarily big hits. Instead, they are chosen because they are important to the development of music over the past century or simply because they are songs that he and his wife enjoy.

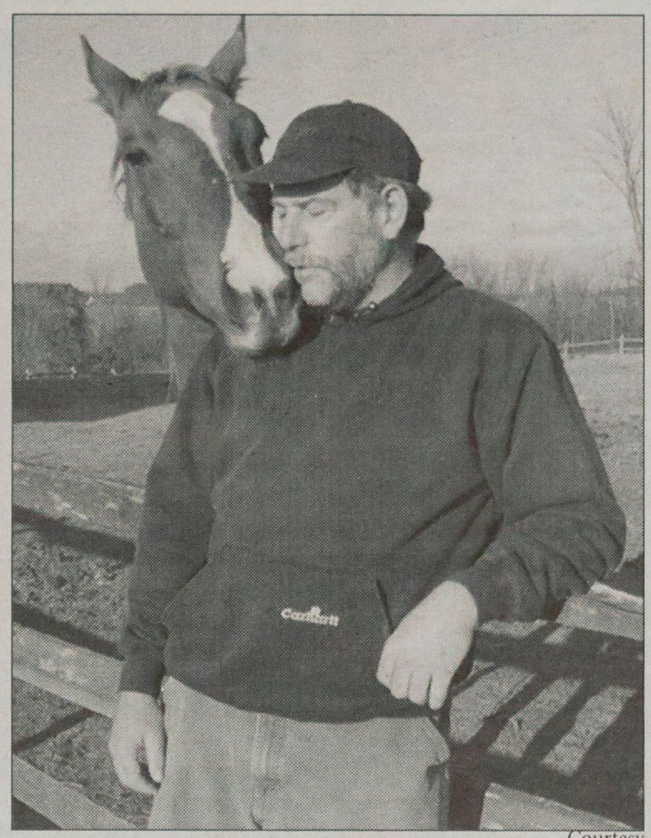
Listeners also appreciate WMUD's business philosophy. It is a non-profit radio station that is powered by wind and solar energy sources. Individual listeners contribute 80 percent of the funds that maintain the station. Without pledge drives, WMUD sustains itself through these contributors and also through underwriting businesses, who receive an advertisement in exchange.

Even some of the music comes from listeners. CD collectors and music storeowners lend CDs to Morgan, who then copies and returns them. John Vincent, owner of "In the Alley Bookshop," participates in this form of contribution to the station.

Vincent is enthusiastic about WMUD. He said, "Homegrown, local, everything good about community, is right there in that radio station." WMUD's web site also urges local musicians to bring in their own music.

Another "contrary" aspect of the new station is that WMUD has no disc jockeys. Morgan programs each song into a computer beforehand. This means that WMUD has no news or weather information. Music is only briefly interrupted by quirky station identifications and advertisement blurbs.

Morgan broadcasts the station out of a room in his Bridport, Vt. home. On a sunny afternoon this fall, he took a break from barn-repairing to give me a tour of his pristine black angus cattle farm overlooking Lake Champlain. Aside from running WMUD, fixing farm buildings and raising cattle, he also does consulting work for other radio stations. Morgan describes this business as "helping stations sound better."



Courtesy

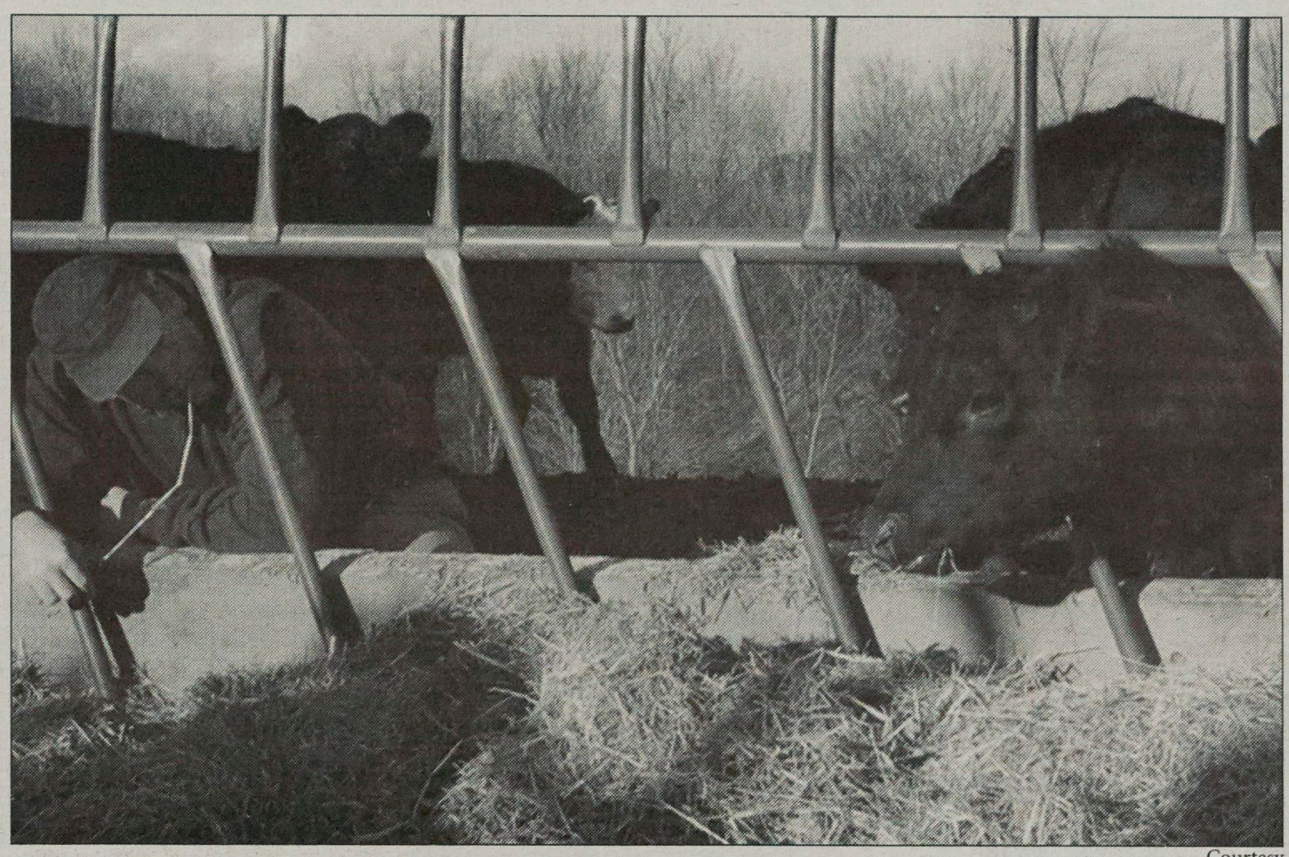
Farmer and radio station manager Chip Morgan takes a moment to visit with his retired racehorse "Radio Wave."

His expertise in radio comes from a life-long involvement in broadcasting. As a young kid in Saratoga, New York, Morgan first got on the air by pirating neighborhood stations. He has produced or disc-jockeyed radio shows all over the United States since then.

While tuned in to WMUD, it is not unlikely to hear a reggae classic by Toots and the Maytals following Celtic fiddle tunes, and even Big Band numbers from the 1940s.

His fondness for radio became even more apparent when he introduced me to "Radio Wave," an old racehorse living out retirement as a pet on Morgan's farm. Morgan pointed across the lake to show off the station's humble 100-watt radio tower that sits 800 feet above sea level in the opposing hills of New York State. Although the station only broadcasts at 100-watts, Morgan explains that because of his strategic placement of the tower, it reaches the area of a 6000-watt station.

Morgan made it a point to tell me that he and his wife take pleasure in listening to their radio station. "It is the soundtrack of our lives," he said. There is a tangible exchange of sorts between their home — the farm, the cows and the view of the lake — with the music they send over the FM waves. Their life is in the music as the music is a part of their sustenance. You can hear WMUD on the FM frequency 89.3 from Vergennes to Rutland.



Courtesy

Morgan owns and operates a black angus cattle farm which he attends to while his computer spits out tunes on WMUD.

BLOWIN' INDIE WIND

BY RICHARD LAWLESS

As people continue to be brainwashed by the increasingly bland and characterless bands that dominate corporate radio, the music that actually matters and stimulates rather than stifles the mind continues to be released. But even this year, good music was much harder to come by than it was in, say, 2002. I could theorize for hours about why this is the case, but that just wouldn't get us anywhere. I'd rather take the time to review the best albums of 2004 — albums that provide a wonderful alternative to the clichéd, sappy, overproduced, trite fodder of commercial radio. Here are six selections of what I consider to be the best music released this year:

The Arcade Fire — "Funeral" — Merge

Without a doubt, the year's finest release. This album absolutely crackles with passion. The Montreal septet, who seem to gain a new member every day, blend dreamy pianos, chugging guitars and infectious melodies together into a whirlwind of emotion. If anyone needs proof that rock music has not become overburdened with ennui, here is a direct refutation: 10 gloriously performed, beautifully written songs about love, death and Haiti.

The Fiery Furnaces — "Blueberry Boat" — Rough Trade

2004 was — to a large extent — the year of the Fiery Furnaces. Easily the hardest working band in existence right now, the Furnaces followed up their highly regarded 2003 effort "Gallowsbird's Bark" with this epic, 70-minute plus masterpiece, which manages to cram about 300 song ideas into 13 mini-opuses. Throughout the year the Furnaces toured incessantly, first with Franz Ferdinand, and then with Wilco. Heck, I almost never get out, and I saw them thrice — yes, thrice. As if this isn't enough, the band has two albums in the works to be released in 2005. One wonders how long they can keep this up.

Madvillain — "Madvillainy" — Stones Throw

Two of underground (and I use this term loosely, so as not to offend experts who claim that there is no underground) hip-hop's biggest names — Madlib and MF Doom — collaborate on the year's finest hip-hop release. A better pairing could not be found: MF Doom's off-kilter rhythm and obscure references mesh well with and practically feed off of Madlib's strange, obscure samplings and beats. The end result is 22 all-too-quick compositions of unconventional rhymes and beats that flow into each other marvelously.

Dungen — "Ta Det Lugnt" — Subliminal Sounds

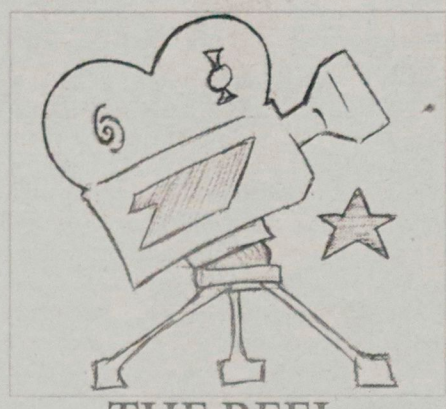
This Swedish ensemble have crafted one of the catchiest collections of psychedelic rock I've heard in a long time, and they've encased it all in a retro-haze with their exquisite production. To top it off, the entire record is sung in Swedish, and even though rumor has it that the lyrics are laughably bad, to us English-speakers, it sounds just plain brilliant.

Loretta Lynn — "Van Lear Rose" — Interscope

I don't think anyone saw this coming, but I for one am delighted it occurred. After years of so-so albums that received little attention, Loretta Lynn found herself collaborating with longtime fan and White Stripe Jack White, as well as in the midst of a hip marketing campaign by Interscope to bring her to the forefront of the trendy MTV2 market (where such indie/commercial groups as the White Stripes and Radiohead now reside). But the reason that this album has been so successful isn't due to Interscope executives (though their packaging and marketing strategy, as much as I hold the record industry in infinite scorn, is admirable rather than sickening) but rather because of the unassuming nature of the album, and the excellent songs that comprise it. White's production is immaculately fitting — deliberately simple and under-produced without running the risk of sounding lo-fi. Instead, it sounds timeless — something Lynn hasn't achieved for decades.

The Streets — "A Grand Don't Come for Free" — Vice/Atlantic

I'll be honest with you. When I first heard the Streets (aka UK rapper/garage artist Mike Skinner) back in 2002, I thought it was just plain atrocious. But I was a very angry, confused young man back then. I soon grew to enjoy Skinner's goofy rants about geezers and darts and clubbing on his debut "Original Pirate Material." But on his follow-up, "A Grand Don't Come for Free," he's outdone himself. Much darker than the previous album, Skinner's lyrics are cutting, honest, direct, sometimes bleak and sometimes absurdly hilarious. The music is grandiose, with symphonic horns and strings complementing the harder beats. But the real star of the show is Skinner himself, who spills his guts right out before you, and the result is an album so real and so heartbreaking that it's stunning.



THE REEL CRITIC

BY STEPHANIE DOSCH

MOVIE | OSAMA
DIRECTOR | SIDDIQ BURMAK
STARRING | MARINA GOlBAHARI

"Osama" opens with hundreds of women wearing blue burqas, protesting their inability to work. The Taliban has forbid it, leaving Afghan women with no money, no choices and little hope. The women march peacefully, declaring that their aims are not political, they only want work. Suddenly, Taliban soldiers arrive to break up the march, scattering the women amidst a spray of water and machine-gun bullets.

A 12-year-old girl and her mother are bystanders at this event and are also forced to flee the scene. The next day the two go to the hospital where they work, only to discover that it will be shut down. They soon discover that they may not even leave the house unaccompanied by a man, or they will be arrested and punished by the Taliban.

With no money and the mother's husband and brother killed in war, the family, who also includes the girl's grandmother, is left with few options. They decide that the only solution is for the girl to become a boy and work. Terrified of what will happen to her if she is discovered, she cuts her precious hair, dons her father's clothes, and gets a job stirring milk in a shop. This lasts only a few days, however, until a strange man takes her to a Taliban training school where all boys learn about religion and the military.

At school, one of the teachers remarks that she looks like a nymph, causing the boys to tease her relentlessly. Her only friend, Espandi, who knows her true identity, sticks up for her, telling them that she is indeed a boy and that her name is Osama. Nevertheless, Osama is soon discovered to be a girl, and is promptly arrested and brought to justice.

"Osama" is an intense and powerful look at life under the Taliban. Despite its short running-time, the movie is filled with lasting images from all aspects of this life — hundreds of ghostlike burqas marching and chanting, a crippled little boy hobbling down the hospital corridor, an old man teaching several young boys how to properly wash themselves, a woman being stoned to death for a minor offense.

Writer/director Siddiq Burmak based his movie on true events and used non-actors found on the streets of Kabul to make the story as real as possible. Marina Golbahari, who plays Osama, is quite wonderful, with eyes that speak volumes, and Arif Herati is endearing as the protector Espandi.

The first movie made in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban, "Osama" won a Golden Globe Award for Best Foreign Language Film and several other awards and nominations. It is vivid and striking, so real that stays with you long after you leave the theater.

"Osama" is this week's Hirschfield Film and will play in Dana Auditorium on Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Middle East conflict at center stage

By Josh Axelrod
Staff Writer

"In Security," directed by Elizabeth Hammett '05, featured a series of scenes from four different plays that attempted to answer, in the words of actress Parker Diggory '04.5, the following questions: "What is the difference between a siege and an occupation, a martyr and a terrorist and a fence and a wall? What happens when these words threaten to become interchangeable? Could our willingness to label someone as a villain or a victim depend on who we are willing to see when we look in the mirror?"

Portrayed mostly through monologues, the first half of the show sought to address Diggory's questions directly. In a series of disjointed and confusing scenes, Diggory (playing three of the nine parts) explored the themes of Arab and Israeli relations, Palestinian persecution, the heroism of martyrs and the overwhelming fear that surrounds everyday life in the Middle East.

Unfortunately, the scenes never delved far enough into the clashing cultures to bring to light something we did not already know. The conflicts of Israel and the rest of the Arab world are well known to many, as are the arguments for and against the existence of the Israeli state. Likewise, in this age of constant fear of terrorism, the idea of martyrdom versus terrorism has been explored by every western publication conceivable. It is true, Americans know nothing of real fear when it comes to the daily threat of suicide bombings and army aggression, yet the play did little to dramatize this brutal aspect of everyday life in the Middle East. Even more problematic was the choice to silence, almost entirely, the voice of the Israelis who feel just as strongly that what they are doing is justified.

Part Two began with the show's first scene containing true interaction. Wanda, played by Diggory and Brutus, played by Salim Saglam '07, are two writers at the center of John Shanley's "Dirty Story," a play written in response to the 9/11 attacks. This segue from the Middle East to New York City lacked, at first, an apparent explanation. The first scene dealt with Brutus' conception of characterization and the necessity to live in someone else's shoes. Strangely, however, we find that he is a perverted maniac who ties Wanda to a ladder (representing train tracks) and not only takes sexual advantage of her, but also pulls out a circular saw as if he is going to cut her into pieces (luckily for Wanda, Frank, an all-American cowboy played by MacLeod Andrews '07.5, bursts in on the scene and saves the day).

Courtesy

"In Security" explored issues of Middle East peace through a variety of dramatic scenes.

If the first half of the show lacked feeling and dynamic, the second half more than made up for it. Audience members squirmed in their seats every time Brutus moved, and the themes explored in the first half began to pop up in each character in ways that were often hilarious or deeply troubling.

The final scene, a continuation of Dirty Story (though much later into the play) found Wanda, Brutus, Frank and Watson, played by Lisa Zaval '07, all in the same room, dealing with the territorial disputes of Wanda and Brutus. By some masochistic miracle, the two writers are sharing the same apartment and not getting along. At this point, the play's symbology is obvious: Brutus and Wanda are the Jews who cannot even get along amongst themselves, Frank is America (the budding colonial power), and Watson is Britain (the faded colonial power) and all are somehow responsible for the predicaments.

As the play ended, the four characters played poker on a map of Iraq, their troubles pushed aside by the enticement of new territories for expansion and domination. The dramatic and intense staging of the "Dirty Story" scenes certainly made up for the play's rather flat first half. It is a shame that they didn't simply put on just this one play.

Singers herald holiday season

By Susan Goehring
Staff Writer

It was a tranquil and soothing holiday celebration that took place in the Center for the Arts (CFA) Concert Hall, on Saturday evening, Dec. 4. The Middlebury College Chamber Singers, under the direction of Jeff Rehbach, took the stage at 8 p.m., garbed in warm, secular hues of black and plum. The concert, entitled "Nowell Syng We," in reference to one of the performed pieces, an Old English carol of the same name, included a total of 25 festive songs. A great multiplicity of holiday flavor was introduced to the large audience present. The carols ranged in time period, the earliest having been composed in the 15th century, and the most modern, in the year 2000.

The performance began with the popular English carol, "Wassail Song," followed by three songs that exemplified the German holiday tradition. More contemporary selections, such as John Tavener's "The Lamb," composed in 1982, and traditional Latin pieces written in the Renaissance period, were highlights. However, the musical choices did not solely include Christian themes. The Hanukkah songs, "Mi zeh hidlik," and "S'vivon," both arranged by Bob Chilcott, were also performed by the Singers.

Solo verses were sung during the Old English carol, "Nowell syng we," by vocalists Dixie Dillon '05 and Benjamin Zegarelli '05.

The audience in attendance on Saturday night had the privilege of hearing the U.S. debut of a piece written by Middlebury's own Peter Hamlin '73, associate professor of Music. The carol, titled "Behold the Wonder of this Night," was written by Hamlin in 1998. This song, a movement from the full-length work titled "Reflections of the Sky," was a commission for Middlebury College's bicentennial celebration. It was originally performed by the Amadeus Choir of Toronto, when it was awarded a prize at the Christmas Carol and Hanukkah Song Writing Contest.

Although the show was rather long, each of the 23 Singers remained spirited and performed consistently throughout the show. Susanna Gorski '05 said that the "concert was a wonderful commencement of the holiday season. The singers were energetic and their voices sounded crisp." Yet she did feel that "covering 600 years of Christmas carols might have been a tad bit ambitious" and that she "enjoyed the 'Just for fun!' section."

The grand finale presented light-hearted and energetic renditions of the ever-familiar and enjoyable American holiday delights, "Deck the Halls," "Jingle Bells," and "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

Said chamber singer Kate Olson '05, "We are very pleased with our performance. It was a challenging program, large in scope but beautiful. We had a wonderful audience, and enjoyed sharing our holiday carols with them."

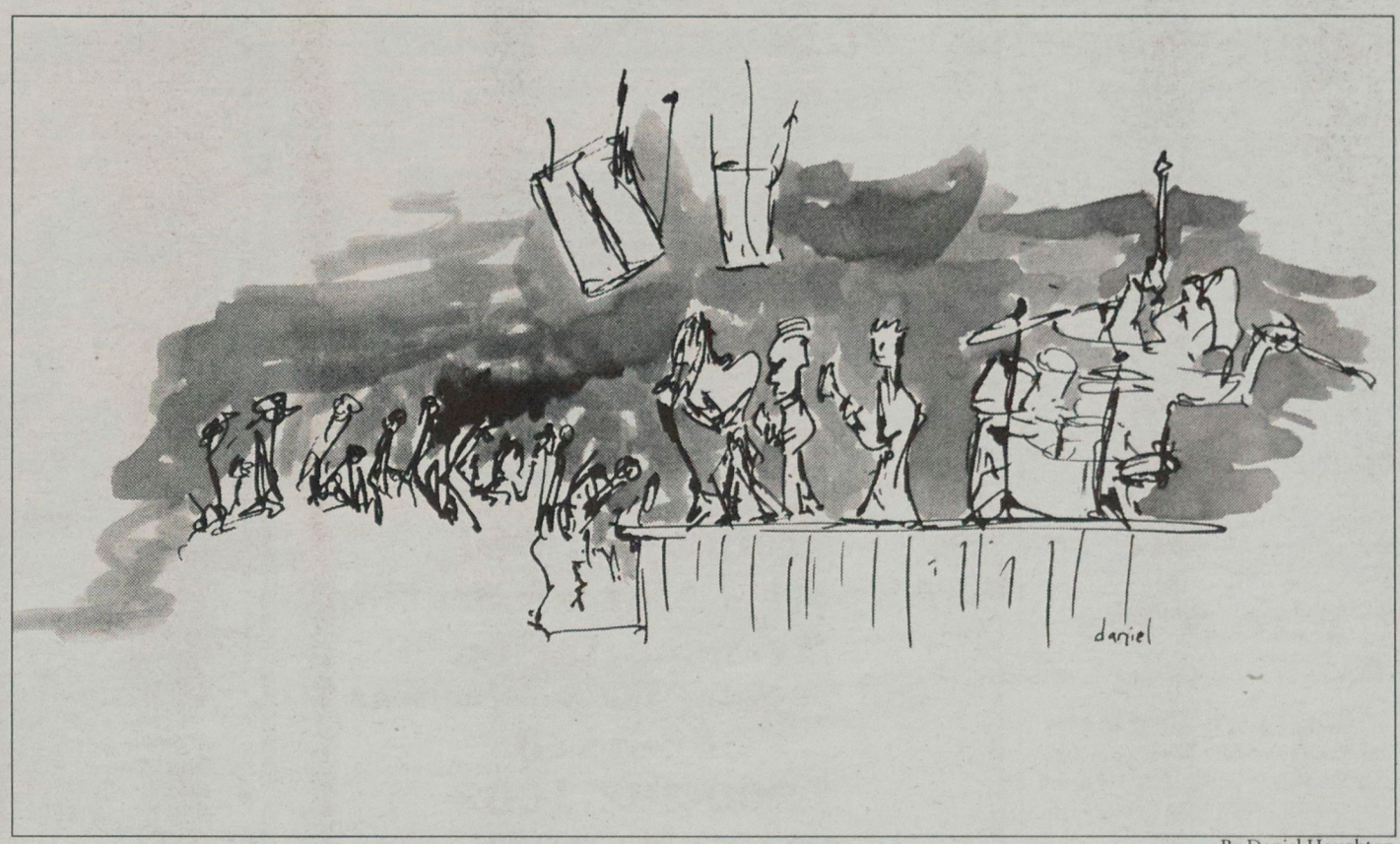
The Middlebury College Chamber Singers, founded by former director, John Milsom, now exist "as the College's official performing ensemble, singing at the Fall Family Weekend and Homecoming Services, Lessons & Carols, Baccalaureate Services and, in October 2004, the Inauguration of President Liebowitz." The Chamber Singers will be singing next at this year's "Lesson's & Carols for Advent and Christmas," Sunday, Dec. 12 in Mead Chapel, with seatings at both 4 and 7 p.m.

Nirvana Bhatia

The Middlebury College Chamber Singers performed a festive mix of holiday themed songs.

Higher Ground's new venue adds fresh flavor

By Abbie Beane
Associate Editor



By Daniel Houghton

Where can you get Hot Tuna, Phish and a thick slice of Cake for dessert? Where else but the Higher Ground? Reopened on Thursday, Dec. 2 for the first time since April 25, the Higher Ground has not only completely moved into its new location on 1214 Williston Rd. in South Burlington, but it also now boasts more space, a few new facilities, more seating and improved lighting and sound systems.

According to Kevin Statesir, co-owner of the Higher Ground along with Alex Crothers, the move went smoothly, and although he expected that it would take a year to get setup for the grand reopening, it took just over six months. With 85 percent of the old staff deciding to stay on board for the switch, this also helped to make the transition almost seamless.

The Higher Ground was pressured to move from the location it had resided in for 31 years last spring due to the Winooski Development Project. Every part of the development was either a housing, retail or office project, and as Statesir claimed, he and his team had to move "for the greater good of the community."

Unlike the old facility, the new location has a large lobby so patrons will not have to wait outside for tickets, and a bigger Ballroom, which will seat far more people than the previous 510 seats in the old space. The exact number has not yet been tallied. Additionally, "a larger, more intelligent lighting system has been installed," reported Statesir, as well as a bigger and better sound system.

Where the old space's Ballroom used to have a café set up in the back, there is a lounge in the new Ballroom, which is raised up above the crowd for a better view of the performers. There is also another bar alongside the concert floor, where in the old space drinks were only sold in the back of the Ballroom.

Statesir is particularly excited about the opening of the smaller Showcase Lounge at the end of the month. This room, which is an extension off of the main Ballroom, is a new addition to the Higher Ground's previous amount of space. The Lounge will provide a venue to smaller acts such as comedians and acoustic performers, and will also serve food and drinks. Like the lobby, it will also provide a space for patrons to wait comfortably in before they can get into the featured show of the night in the main Ballroom.

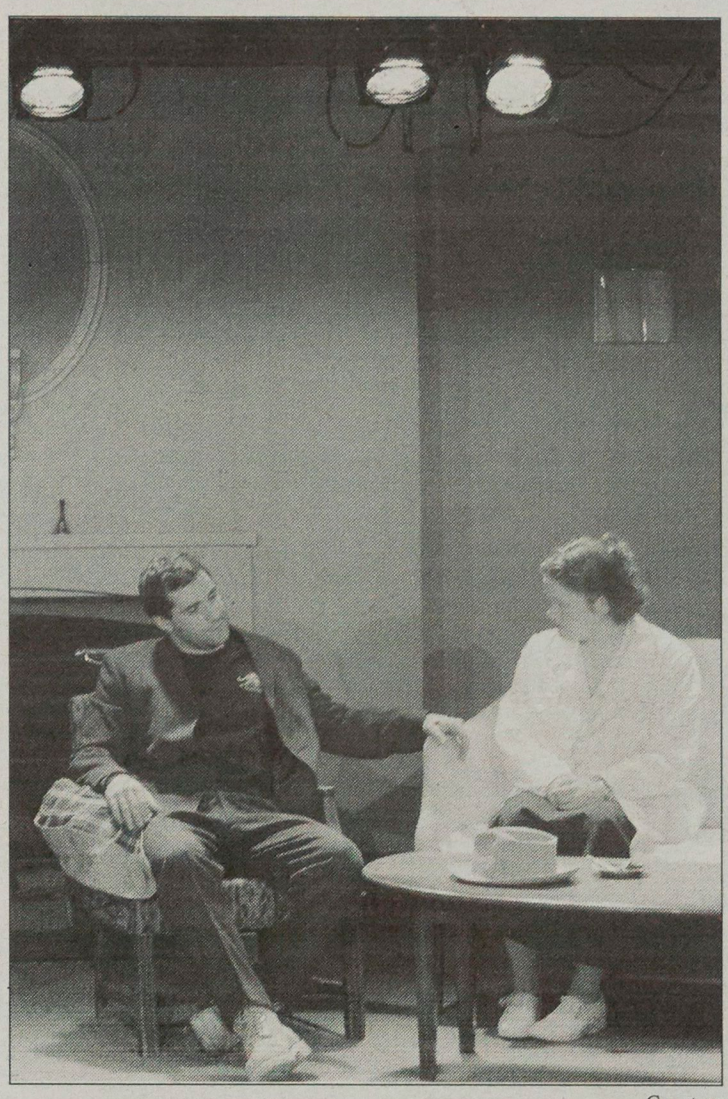
Statesir anticipates that the Higher Ground will pick up more business in the new location than in the previous one. "We have more seating, so we can sell more tickets," he said, "and we're also closer to downtown, UVM and the interstate, so that will help. There are also five hotels within walking distance of here."

Statesir anticipates that the Higher Ground will pick up more business in the new location than in the previous one.

Shows this week include Soulive on Thursday, Dec. 9, The Machine, a Pink Floyd tribute band, on Friday Dec. 10, Johnny A on Saturday, Dec. 11 and The Dark Star Orchestra, which plays Grateful Dead covers, on Sunday, Dec. 12. New Years Eve will be the first night that the Higher Ground will see simultaneous performances, utilizing both the Ballroom and the Showcase Lounge space for musical acts. The duo's premiere will include performances by the Jazz Mandolin Project featuring Jamie Masefield and Jon Fishman in the Ballroom and Chrome Cowboys in the Showcase Lounge.

"We are very excited to be here," Statesir asserted. "We have better lights, better sound and we've tried to improve on all of the flaws of the old Higher Ground [in this new space]."

A LONG-AWAITED, DRAMATIC DEBUT



Courtesy

Opening its doors for the first time on Dec. 11, the long-fought-for Château space will feature foreign language plays. The first play, premiering this Saturday is a German piece by Friedrich Duerrenmatt entitled "Die Physiker," and presented by German Theater in Action.

Music to catch: sounds around town

Friday, Dec. 10
THE MACHINE (Pink Floyd tribute band), Higher Ground, 9 p.m. $18
JOSH BROOKS (singer-songwriter), Two Brothers Tavern, 9 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 11
JOHNNY A (rock guitar) at Higher Ground, 9 p.m. $14
RATATAT (indie-rock), Coltrane Lounge, 9 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 12
DARK STAR ORCHESTRA (Grateful Dead tribute band), Higher Ground, 9 p.m. $20

And with all that free time in J-term, there's no excuse to miss out on…

Saturday, January 5
HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS, Spitalfield, Number One Fan, Black Maria, 9 p.m. $12

Saturday, January 22
BADFISH: The Ultimate Sublime Tribute, Zox, and Suspect, Higher Ground, 9 p.m. $14

Sunday, January 23
BRIGHT EYES, Cocorosie, and Tilly & The Wall, Higher Ground, 8 p.m. $20

Thursday, January 27
JOHN BROWN'S BODY, 9 p.m. $12

Friday, January 28
MELISSA FERRICK, Higher Ground, 9 p.m. $15

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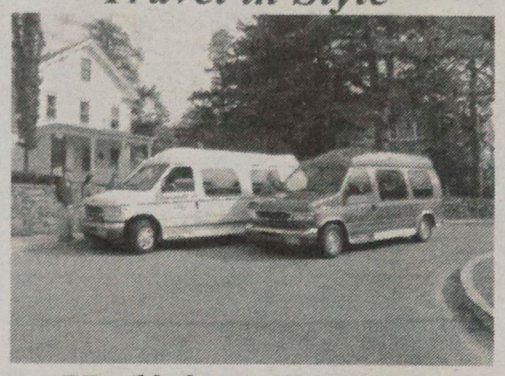

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Panthers skate to success away from home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

wide open in the third with four goals in the first ten minutes of the period. Gilchrist chipped in a couple of goals, and Hunt added his second of the game.

The Panthers continued their winning streak against Southern Maine on Saturday, narrowly defeating the team in a 4-2 game. The Panthers once again dominated in the shots department, more than doubling Southern Maine's shot total.

Middlebury relied on a couple of their young guns to get the scoring started. Panthers leading scorer John Sales '07, opened the scoring just 1:35 into the game. Gaines, and Tom Maldonado '08 tacked on two more in the second period to put the Panthers up 3-0. Alternate captain Patrick Nugent '05 and James Guay '08 rounded out the Panthers goal scoring.

The Panthers' youth once again played a pivotal role in the team's victories but Hunt argues that, "Although we have several young players, our senior leadership has been great, allowing the young guys to learn quickly."

Albert Bitici

Levi Doria '05 concentrates as he lines up for a shot during a recent game. The senior forward is second on the team with five assists.

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Another Look

BY DAVID FREEDMAN

With the Holiday season quickly approaching and the cheer associated with it coming on even faster, I felt it was appropriate to hop on board and get in the spirit of things. What better way to celebrate the season to be jolly, I thought, than to make a wish list of things that would make me happy? Admittedly, my wish list borders on becoming a grocery list of New Year's resolutions, asking people to do or not do certain things in 2005, but I don't see the two as mutually exclusive. I figure you can check my list and see how it measures up to your own — and if mine offends you, just keep in mind this is a column about sports, not world peace.

I formally wish the following:

That whoever wishes the Patriots to repeat as Super Bowl Champs does not get their request granted. I'm sorry New England, but with the Huskies, Sox and Pats winning championships in this calendar year, somebody else should get just a little bit of the limelight.

That the administration install heaters in the Bubble. Picture yourself trying to play squash with a ball just as cold as the ground outside is.

That a girl from town would wear Jeff Smith's jersey at men's hockey games. All the goal-scorers get too much glory from the locals. How can they not want to pay homage to #26? The senior defender smiles so often out on the ice that you can see him grinning even when he gets checked.

That students would stop thinking that after getting intoxicated it is really fun to break lights or kick in walls. Contrary to drunken belief, dorm damage is not alright, and yes it is a big deal. Facilities management should get the opportunity to smash repeat offenders' computers or TVs.

That more people go to women's hockey games this winter. They won the national championship last year for God's sake. But I'm going to be honest, I've never been myself, but I *hear* they're really good.

That people stop clapping when some unfortunate soul breaks a cup or dish in Ross.

That classes be cancelled just one time because of snow (If you didn't notice, this is the most unlikely thing to happen on this list).

That students get over the unbelievable popularity of broom ball — I'd rather watch curling than this.

That whatever actions the Community Council is thinking of taking right now, they just stop thinking about it.

That someone puts mistletoe over Kobe and Shaq when they shake hands as captains on their Christmas day match-up. Now that would humble the hell out of two enormous egos.

That everyone pitch in to their custodian's holiday bonus with a little something, whether its money or a gift, because let's be honest, would you really want to clean up our dorms?

Happy holidays Middlebury.

Kogut anchors defense in victories

By Blake Saville
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's hockey team continued its early dominance, shutting out both Amherst and Connecticut Colleges this past weekend. The Panthers are now 7-0 on the season, outscoring opponents 35-5.

Middlebury blanked Amherst on Friday night 4-0 at Kenyon Arena. The Panther defense was stellar in this game, limiting the Lord Jeffs to just 12 shots on goal. Junior forward Emily Quizon continued her hot start, scoring two more goals. She leds the team through seven games with seven goals and 15 points. Lorna Gifis '05 added a goal and an assist as she has 14 points through seven games.

The one-two punch of Quizon and Gifis has been devastating to opponents during the early going this season.

The team from top to bottom is proving to be very talented and senior co-captain Kate Kogut says that she feels they are even better than last year's national championship winning squad.

"I think we have more talent this year than last year. We are learning how to work together very well. With time we will become more of a cohesive unit," said Kogut.

Kogut had 12 saves in the shutout.

It was more of the same on Saturday with Middlebury beating Connecticut College 3-0. Gifis, sophomore defenseman Emily McNamara and first-year defenseman Karen Levin all had one goal apiece.

Albert Bitici

Sophomore Samantha Ritt breaks away from a Connecticut College defender during Saturday's 3-0 shutout.

It was fitting that defenders scored two of the three goals because the real story again was the defense, limiting the Camels to just 13 shots.

"Our defense has been doing a really good job this season and will only improve as each day goes by," said Kogut.

That is a scary proposition for opponents with Middlebury now only surrendering 15.3 shots per contest. Kogut has two consecutive shutouts and attributes this to the defense, saying that they did not give up many scoring opportunities or good shots.

She also went on to say that she does not feel like she has played her best hockey yet, joking that she has not had many chances to show her ability.

"I guess I would say that I felt pretty focused during the games this weekend," said Kogut, but it is hard to really be in the zone and find a rhythm with so few shots."

Yet she has saved 89 of 92 shots faced this year, for an outstanding 0.967 save percentage. The defense is certainly playing well in front of her, limiting the opponent's scoring opportunities. But only allowing three goals in 92 shots is an amazing individual effort. With Kogut red hot, the defense playing so well in front of her and Quizon and Gifis averaging over two points per contest, the Panthers probably will not lose too many games this year.

They get their next opportunity on Dec. 11 at Kenyon Arena against Williams. Kogut is excited for the match up.

"I can't wait for Williams," she said. "They are going to come ready to play. It should be a very good game. I think we are all excited about it."

Men's basketball lags in recent play

Team struggles after a rough week but remains optimistic

Albert Bitici

Evan Thompson '07 looks to move the ball during Saturday's loss to RPI. The team played yesterday, but results were not in by press time.

By Eri Nosaka
Staff Writer

This week the Middlebury men's basketball team struggled against Castleton State, Hamilton College and Rensselaer. The Panthers were able to hold onto the teams for a while, but lost in all three games, a major setback this early in the season.

In the game against Castleton State on Nov. 30, luck was simply not on the Panthers' side. With 1.5 seconds left Castleton made a half court shot giving them a lead of 72-69. The game was close throughout. Castleton held a two point lead going into half time.

Evan Thompson '07 led the team with 14 points, Mike Salek '05 with 11 points and Bobby Marcoux '07 with 10 points.

In both the second and third games it appeared that the Panthers started off strong but could not hold on during the second half. By the end of the first half against Hamilton College on Dec. 2, Middlebury led with a score of 37-31 but trailed at the end of the game with a score of 76-57.

"We played really well on Thursday. After Thursday's game and Saturday's game we are looking to become more consistent over the 40 minute stretch," said Head Coach Jeff Brown. "In both games we played well in the first half, but we had a couple of moments when we were flat especially in the second half."

At home on Saturday against Rensselaer, the team showed moments of strength, especially when leading by five during the second half. The final score was 64-55. The major contributors of that game were co-captain Adam Sinoway '05 who led with 15 points, Clark Read '05 who netted 11 points and Steve Vento '05 with 10 points.

"We're still trying to come together to find out how to play together."
—Steve Vento '05

"Our outside shots were pretty bad so if we improve on that it should open up the game. We are still optimistic about the games coming up. We beat Green Mountain and South Vermont last year so we should be able to beat them again this year," said Bobby Marcoux '07.

This week, while most Middlebury students are in the midst of studying for exams and writing research papers, the basketball team will be taking on both Green Mountain and South Vermont at home.

"We're still trying to come together to find out how to play together. We've had a few unlucky breaks but if we continue to practice everyday we will improve and we should be very successful," said Steve Vento '05.

Basketball sets the tone

Win over Castleton ends losing streak

By Heather Wright
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's basketball team had a busy week as they moved to a record of 2-4. Their two wins against Castleton State and St. Lawrence came at important times and helped give the Panthers some much needed confidence.

Their first win came on Nov. 30 when they solidly defeated Castleton 59-47. "After opening the season with three tough losses this win was huge for us. Going into the game we knew that this game could make or break us, so we were willing to do whatever it took to get a win," said Elyse Carlson '05.

Although the Panthers were down at halftime, they brought the game to a tie at 36 during the second half. After tying up the game, Middlebury went on a 9-0 run which secured the game for the Panthers. Carlson led the Panthers with 14 points and nine rebounds. Alanna Young '08 had 12 points and nine rebounds, and Micaela McVary '06 also added 12 points to the Panther win.

"This game was a great team effort, a lot of people played a lot of minutes, each contributing something different," said Carlson.

Middlebury faced a tough Williams team on Friday, Dec. 3, where they fell 79-63. Williams came out strong and forced Middlebury to give up 27 turnovers, which Williams was able to capitalize on.

"Williams played tough defense on us and we were seriously outmatched in the post," said Carlson.

Young added that, "Williams had really good post players, and they kept finding the girls inside and feeding them the ball. But as a team we still rebounded very well, especially considering the size of their team compared to us."

Katie Fehsenfeld '06 led the Panthers with 21 points, Young had 17 points and Carlson had 14. Middlebury had a strong second half, but it was not enough to capture the win.

"We played really well in the second half, which is encouraging, because it is easy to just let up when you are down by a lot, but we battled hard and played them evenly for the last 20 minutes," said Young.

Middlebury made up for their loss on Friday, with a solid 65-42 win over St. Lawrence on Saturday. The Panthers "came out from the tip-off determined to win. We really set the tone early, playing great defense and forcing a lot of turnovers," said Carlson.

Fehsenfeld led Middlebury again with 22 points, Carlson scored 21 and Young had two rebounds in this decisive win. Carlson and Fehsenfeld led the offensive attack, hitting a combined 10 for 13 three-pointers.

"Our three point shooting was amazing. Every time St. Lawrence started to make a run, or put pressure on our guards, we seemed to find someone open in the corner who would sink a three. If we keep playing like we did on Saturday we can definitely compete with any team," said Young.

The Middlebury women are showing much promise and are quickly gaining confidence in their ability to work together as a team. The Panthers next take on Rensselaer on Dec. 11 at home in Pepin Gymnasium at 1 p.m.

File Photo

With their second consecutive win, the Panthers improved their record to 3-4 after beating Plymouth State 65-56 on Tuesday night. Results of yeterday's game against Green Mountain were not available at press time.

Women's squash struggles

By Zamir Ahmed
Staff Writer

The Middlebury women's squash team kicked off its season last weekend at the Wesleyan Round-Robin. The tournament gave the team a chance to test themselves against some of their toughest competition in the NESCAC division.

The Panthers, ranked 16th in the country, opened up the competition on Friday against ninth-ranked Bates. The Bobcats proved to be too much for the team, beating Middlebury 9-0. It was a great weekend for Bates, who won all four of their matches by a score of 9-0.

The team had little time to relax, moving on to play Wesleyan right after their first match ended. It was a dominating performance by Middlebury, who defeated the Cardinals by a 9-0 margin. The Panthers only dropped a total of three games in their nine individual matches against Wesleyan.

On Saturday Middlebury faced off against Tufts University, who are ranked one spot ahead of the Panthers. It was a tough fight for the Panthers, who in the end fell to the Jumbos 5-4.

The Panthers played hard against Tufts, with co-captain Holly Haertel '05 and Hannah Baker '07 winning their matches at 1 and 2, respectively. Kea Anstey '05 added a point with a four-game victory at number 6 and the Panthers picked up a win at number 9 by default.

The Panthers could not pull out the victory, though, with Ellie Buechner '08 and Kara Zarchin '06 both dropping hard-fought five-game matches.

"The Tufts match was a disappointing loss," said co-captain Lauren Smith '05, who sat out the round-robin while recovering from back surgery. "We're definitely going to improve. Hopefully we'll beat [Tufts] when we play them again."

Middlebury was also scheduled to play against St. Lawrence University at the tournament. However, the team was a no-show and the Panthers ended the tournament with a 1-2 record.

The Panthers are coming off a highly successful season last year, having won the Walker Cup at Yale University. The Cup is a division of the Howe Cup, which is a part of collegiate squash's national championship.

Although losing three top players to graduation last year, the team believes that the Wesleyan Round-Robin will prove to be a great learning experience for the rest of the year. The team is deep with returning and new players ready to step up and compete.

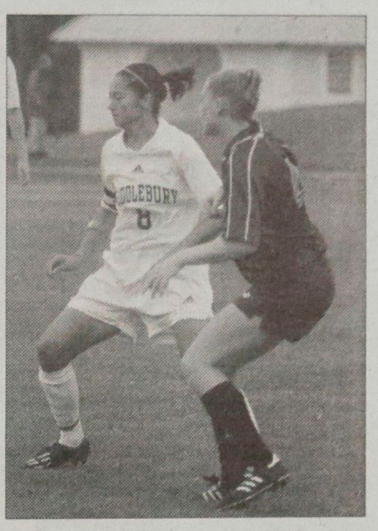
"We're just getting a feel for the season," said Zarchin. "We have four more tournaments before the Howe Cup. We're excited about doing better."

The Panthers' next meet will be after the holiday break, at the Williams Invitational on Jan. 7-8.

SPORTSBRIEFS

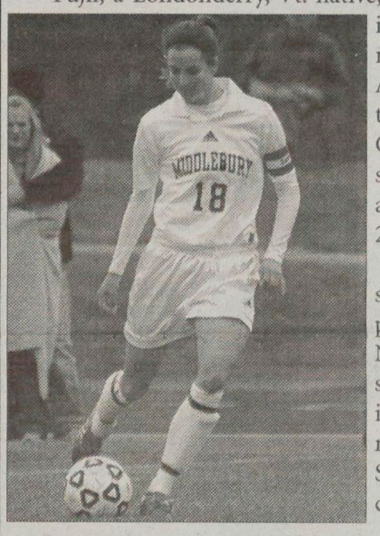
BY KATIE FLAGG

Cronin, Fujii, Van Woert awarded All-New England



Three Middlebury women's soccer players were honored earlier this week with first-team selections to the All-New England team. The seniors — Brittany Cronin (bottom), Mayo Fujii (right) and Els Van Woert — were each chosen for the award after helping lead the Panthers to the NCAA sectionals. All three played important roles as leaders and strong players on a team that ended the season with an impressive 15-1-3 record — a record that boosted the team to tie the school mark for wins.

Cronin, of Aurora, Colo., put in an especially strong season for the Panthers. She set the school's single-season record for both goals and points, making an impressive 19 goals in 19 games and earning a total of 42 points. Six of her goals were game-winners. Cronin, in addition to being appointed to the All-New England team, earned NESCAC All-Conference honors and was named league Player of the Year.



Fujii, a Londonderry, Vt. native, had a noteworthy season despite an injury that kept her from playing for most of the final five games of the year. After prowling midfield for the Panthers, Fujii earned first-team All-NESCAC honors. At the end of the season, she was second on the team for goals and points, finishing with 11 goals and 22 points.

Van Woert, another Vermonter, similarly won All-NESCAC honors previous to being named to the All-New England team. As the Panthers' star goalkeeper, Van Woert spent an impressive 1738 minutes — of 1787 minutes played total — in the goal. She led the league with a .913 save percentage. Van Woert had an impressive

Five field hockey players earn New England honors and two named All-American

Following a stellar season, the women's field hockey team continues to shine. While the women fell in the finals of the NCAA championships, outstanding leaders and players continue to be recognized for their athleticism and success. Five members of the team were named to the All-New England team, and two were honored further with appointments to the All-American team.

Juniors Janie Mackey and Channing Weymouth, along with sophomore Claire Edelen, were named to the All-New England first team. Senior Ashley Pullen and sophomore Meghan McGillen were appointed to the second team. Mackey and Edelen were both named to the All-American second team.

Mackey — who was named NESCAC Player of the Year last month — led a Middlebury defense that allowed only 1.23 goals per game this season. Along with a strong defensive squad, Mackey helped keep nine opponents scoreless this season. With Mackey's help, the team has won an impressive 37 of its last 40 games. But far from simply stopping goals, Mackey scored four goals of her own this season for a total 12 points.

Weymouth's first-team appointment follows her first-team All-NESCAC honors. As a midfielder for the team, Weymouth played in all 20 games this season. She made eight assists over the course of the season and two goals.

Edelen was second on the team for scoring this year, making 15 goals and 11 assists. The sophomore strengthened the Panthers' offense, which led the conference with an average 4.62 goals per game this season.

Pullen's second-team honors are joined by her second-team All-NESCAC award. The senior scored six goals and made five assists this season. Pullen was also invited to take part in the North/South senior all-star game.

McGillen, the keeper for the team, made seven solo shutouts in a season during which she played in all 20 games. She missed just 60 minutes of action in the net all season. McGillen's impressive .831 save average rocketed her to second-team All-New England honors.

All five women were responsible for helping the team achieve a strong 18-2 record this season.

MEN'S BASKETBALL | TEAM SUFFERS TOUGH LOSSES BUT REMAINS HOPEFUL | 22

WOMEN'S HOCKEY | PANTHERS CONTINUE EXCITING WINNING STREAK | 22

GAMES TO WATCH

WOMEN'S HOCKEY VS. WILLIAMS
DEC. 11 | 3 PM | HOME

MEN'S HOCKEY VS. AMHERST
DEC. 11 | 7 PM | HOME

campus sports

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2004

Swimmers and divers make waves at home

Men's team takes historic win over Amherst Lord Jeffs in dual meet

By Stacey Wong
Staff Writer

For the first time in the program's history, the men's swimmers and divers can say they beat Amherst. Before Saturday, Middlebury had never defeated Amherst in a dual meet. That all changed as the Panthers turned back the Lord Jeffs by a score of 126-117. It was the home opener for the team.

Sophomore swimmer Drew Edelstein said after, "Amherst has always been a giant looming over us, a constant shadow. For us to win was a huge psychological victory, and a demonstration we are on the path to greatness."

Rob Collier '07, celebrating his 20th birthday, led the Panthers to victory by winning his two individual events. The birthday boy won the 200 backstroke in 2:03.12, then came back and won the 500 freestyle in 4:58.51. Collier capped his great day by leading the 400 medley relay team to a first place finish. The other members of that team were Jason Korsmeyer '05, David Hawkins '05 and Tim Lux '07.

Three others contributed to the victory with individual wins. Robert Hillas '06 won the 1,000 freestyle, Austin Krissoff '06 won the 200 free and Lux won the 200 breaststroke. Also, the 400 free relay team won its race in a time of 3:14.78. On that team were Korsmeyer, Hawkins, John Rayburn '07 and Robbie Burton '08.

When asked what the key to success was, Edelstein said, "Cohesion and spirit, not only during competition, but in practice. We were able to joke and have fun, while maintaining a competitive edge all throughout the week. By the time Saturday came, we had complete faith in each other and a solid sense of unity."

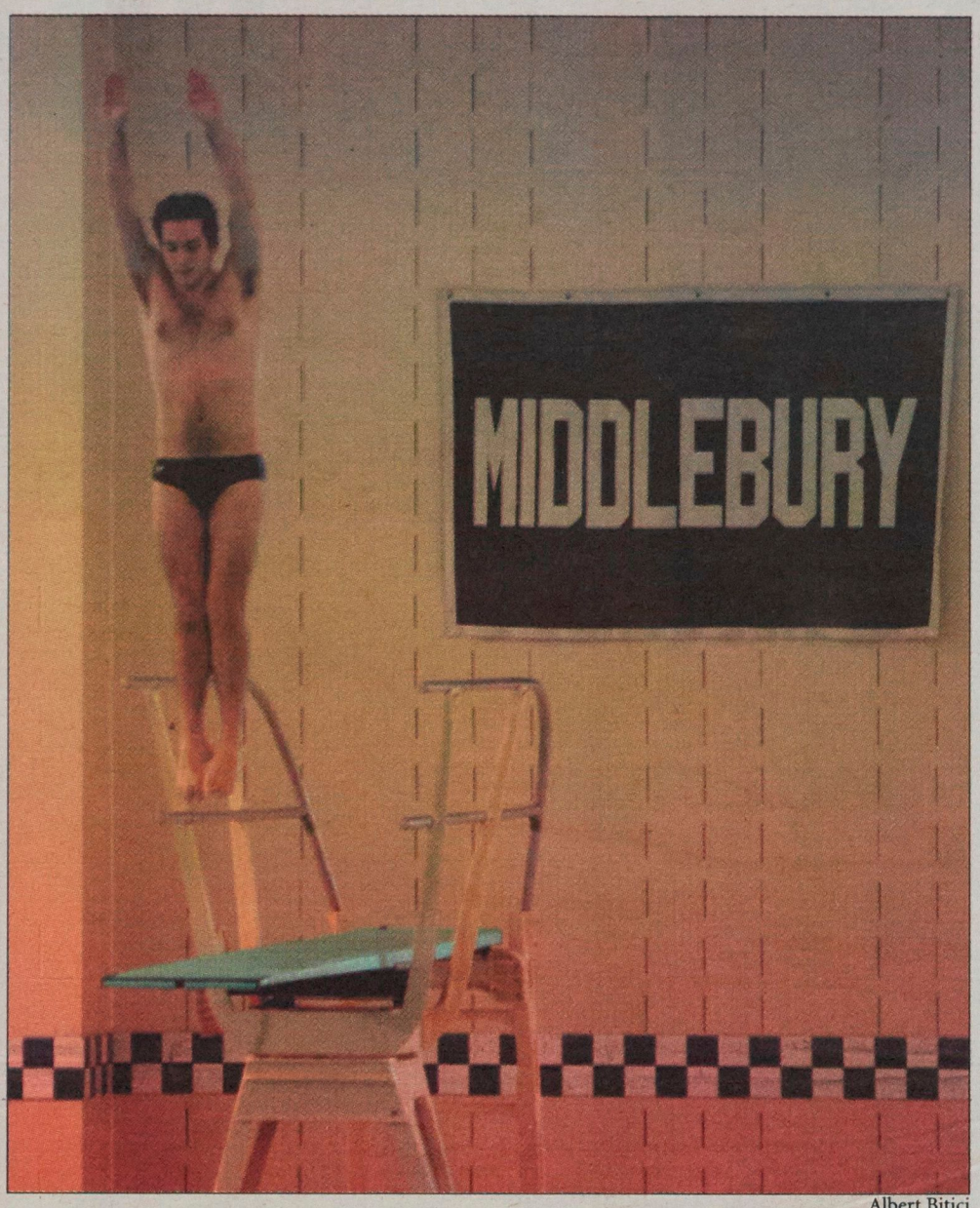
Being able to swim so well and as a solid team was particularly impressive considering this was the first meet the men entire men's team has competed in together. Until this weekend many of the men were competing at water polo nationals in Springfield.

Meanwhile, the women's team fought hard before falling to Amherst 140-103. The women fell to 1-1 on the season.

Even in the loss, there were many bright spots for the women. First-year Marika Ross set a pool record when she won the 200 fly in a time of 2:08.12. Another first-year, Sara Crowie, won a pair of events: the 500 and 1,000 free. Tessa Truex '05 won the three-meter diving event with a score of 252.30. Last but not least, the 400 free relay team set another pool record with its win with a time of 3:37.49. That team consisted of Ross, Katie Chambers '08, Barbara Van der Veer '07 and Liz Rice '07.

But the day belonged to the men. Edelstein called the team's performance "inspiring." He said, "I saw a lot of amazing swims, like Austin Krissoff's 200 and the final 400 relay, that motivated us and reminded us why we train in this sport: to reach and break through our personal limits."

Saturday was the last meet for both the men's and women's teams until January. They will compete again Jan. 8 against Colby.



Albert Bitici

Michael Young '07 gracefully begins his dive during Saturday's win over Amherst. Young placed second in the men's three meter diving event and third in the one meter diving event.

Men's hockey triumphs in triplet on the road

By Jason Lockhart
Staff Writer

The men's hockey team took to the road for the first time this season after playing in the challenging Primelink Tournament at home. They could have had a let down after a tough weekend, but instead they picked their game up right where they left off, finishing the weekend with a sweep by the combined score of 13-5.

The weekend started with a win against Salem State 9-3. The Salem team has defeated Middlebury the past two years. Seven different players scored and 16 players earned at least one point, as the Panthers continue to spread out their offense.

"It was good to see our team was able to respond well and put together a solid 60 minutes to beat Salem State," said Darwin Hunt '07 who scored two goals and added an assist in the game.

Hunt scored the game winner on the power play with 5:20 left in the first period to put the Panthers up 4-1, with the assists going to Mickey Gilchrist '08 and Captain Brian Phinney '05. The Panthers converted on four of five powerplay opportunities.

"We'd worked on our powerplay all week in practice and were able to move the puck really quickly around the perimeter, and then get it to a spot where we were able to capitalize," explained Gilchrist. "Salem State's passive penalty killing allowed us to move the puck really well and capitalize."

The Panthers, meanwhile, gave up nine power play chances of their own, but were able to kill off eight of the power plays.

The new crackdown on obstruction penalties by referees has forced some teams to adjust, but senior Jeff Smith argued, "I think the new penalty crackdowns are to our advantage in the long run. We're a small, fast skating team and we should be the ones drawing obstruction penalties. Right now, I think, we just need to get a little more familiar with what our limits are and continue to move our feet so we don't get called [for it]."

The Panthers not only dominated on the scoreboard but in the shots department as well, outshooting Salem State by a 50-23 margin. The Panthers came out slow, giving up a goal just 34 seconds into the game to fall behind 1-0. It was only temporary as the Panthers scored the last four goals of the period with contributions from Eric LaFreniere '07, Justin Gaines '08, Tim Graham '05 and Hunt.

After giving up a couple of goals in the second period, the Panthers blew the game

See Panthers, page 21

Albert Bitici

Mickey Gilchirst '08 and James Guay '08 await the puck during a recent game. The Panthers (5-0-1) play Amherst on Saturday at home.